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Inter-Arab Affairs

Memos From Kuwait, Iraq Submitted to Arab League

Iraqi Occupation Actions Denounced

LD0409194791 London KUNA in Arabic 1759 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (KUNA)—The Arab League received here today a Kuwaiti memo on "the economic and social effects resulting from the Iraqi unjust occupation of the State of Kuwait." The memo was conveyed by Kuwait's Permanent representative to the Arab League Ambassador 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Jay'an, when he was received by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid here today. Kuwait demanded that the memo should be distributed to the ministers and delegations of the countries taking part in the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, which began here today. The memo should be kept by the Arab League Secretariat as an official memo from the State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti memo, which KUNA received a copy of today, stated: In addition to the atrocities suffered by the Kuwaiti people during the period of occupation, Kuwait's economy witnessed a sharp fall in its gross national income, more than 80 percent, and was affected by the losses and the huge damage to its financial, commercial, industrial, and service sectors, which can roughly be estimated 200 billion American dollars.

The memo added "the world has been a witness to such losses, given the pollution created in the skies of Kuwait and other neighbourly countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and by the smoke and poisons emanating from the Kuwaiti oil fields. The oil fields were destroyed and burned by the rancorous Iraqi occupation."

The Kuwaiti memo recalled that "such damage will not solely affect the Kuwaiti economy; its impact will also directly harm the Arab economy in general; and it will hinder efforts and programs of development in the Arab countries which used to receive from Kuwait great and effective contribution. However, Kuwait will never stop its assistance to its brethren in the Arab countries, in order to help them and contribute to their program of development—particularly in those countries which adopted an honorable stance [during the occupation]."

The Kuwaiti memo stressed that "more than one year after the black 2 August, and five months after the liberation of Kuwait, the ruling regime in Iraq is still not abiding by the decision of international legitimacy, especially Security Council resolutions 686 and 687."

It said that the Iraqi regime "continues its policy of deception, evading commitments, refusing and violating its pledges, and using weak excuses to turn against these resolutions."

The memo numbered fives points concerning the hostile, cunning style. These are: The fact that the Iraqi regime did not hand over, so far, the detainees and POW's of Kuwait and other nationalities whose number amounts to 2470 people; the fact that it did not take any serious steps for the demarcation of official international borders with the State of Kuwait; the fact that it did not so far return all the properties and funds it stole and plundered from Kuwait, in addition to the statements made by some Iraqi officials that Kuwait is still part of Iraq; and the perseverence of this regime in exercising deception and cunning in dealing with the UN fact-finding committees to inquire about nuclear, biological, and chemical arms of mass destruction owned by Iraq.

The memo dealt in a comprehensive and brief way with all the economic and social consequences suffered by Kuwait and its people due to the Iraqi unjust occupation. It also included the first estimates of destruction and losses in some of the state sectors.

The memorandum also mentioned other sectors, which were harmed as a result of the Iraqi occupation, such as the destruction of Kuwaiti islands. For instance, all the facilities on Faylaka Island were totally destroyed; the island has become uninhabitable and the restoration of life to it needs large expenses. The memorandum also mentioned the destruction of Kuwait's airport; stealing Kuwaiti Airways airplanes; the destruction of ports; and stealing the means of transport, loading equipment, and cranes.

The memorandum pointed out that the destruction also included cultural and scientific installations; the stealing and destruction of Kuwaiti museums; the destruction of newly built housing projects; the destruction of factories; the looting of shops and stores; the destruction of entertainment projects; the destruction of gardens and parks; the destruction of private property; and the stealing of cars.

U.S. 'Spy' Plane Flights Denounced

JN0509071991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Iraq informed the Arab League Secretariat of the repeated violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S. spy planes coming from Saudi airspace. Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League submitted a memorandum on the subject to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday informing him that on 31 August the American U-2 spy plane, marked T0UN, entered Iraqi airspace coming from Saudi airspace. He added that the plane flew over Iraqi territory for around four hours. It then left Iraqi territory in the direction of Saudi Arabia.

The memorandum conveyed Iraq's protest and strong condemnation of the fact that for the fourth time in the space of 20 days, Saudi Arabia again allowed its territory and airspace to be used as a staging point for repeated aggression against Iraq in violation of the Arab League Charter.

The memorandum said that if these acts are continued and the Iraqi Government's protests are ignored, a dangerous precedence in Arab relations will be created whose objective will be other Arab countries in the future if the Arab League and member countries do not intervene to put an end to this dangerous stance.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League asked the secretary general to pass on this memorandum to Saudi Arabia's representative to the League and to distribute it among the Arab member countries.

Arab Economic Unity Council To Return to Cairo

NC0309132991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Excerpt] At an extraordinary session held at the Arab League's Headquarters today, the Council for Arab Economic Unity approved the return of the Council's Secretariat from its temporary base in Amman to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Baghdad To Host Arab Popular Conference 29 Sep

JN0309201791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—INA learned from party sources in the secretariat of the Arab popular congress that an Arab popular conference will be held in Baghdad on 29 September. The conference will be attended by all nationalist and pan-Arab parties and movements, political figures, and leaders of Arab unions, organizations, and committees for supporting Iraq. This is in order to hold a dialogue and to act jointly against the challenges faced by the Arab nation, particularly the aggression against Iraq, represented by the continued unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraq people. The conference will also expose the unjust settlement scheme that is aimed to liquidate the Palestine question at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people's right to their territory and (?sovereignty).

Arab Maghreb Summit Set for Casablanca 15-16 Sep

LD0209100491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] An ordinary session of the Arab Maghreb Union summit will be held 15-16 September in Casablanca, and will be preceded by an Arab Maghreb foreign ministers' meeting 13-14 September, also in Casablanca.

Suggestion for Mideast Conference in Warsaw

NC0409171991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Polish Charge d'Affaires (Peter Kovelski) today met with Information Minister Albert Mansur. Following the meeting, the Polish official said that his country supports strong ties among Arab countries. He noted that Polish President Lech Walesa has suggested that the Polish capital host a peace conference to settle the Middle East crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat-Mubarak Banghazi Meeting Detailed

JN0409100291 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 2 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Banghazi, MISR AL-FATAH—The meeting that was successfully arranged by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi between Mubarak and 'Arafat, on the sidelines of the great man-made river ceremony, was the first since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. The past year witnessed tense positions, conflicting policies, and trading of accusations at all levels. To see what the two Arab leaders had to say one year after the crisis, MISR AL-FATAH closely observed the meeting that was characterized by total frankness and clarity.

In his summit meeting with President Mubarak in Banghazi, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat called for overcoming Egyptian-Palestinian differences brought about by the Gulf war. 'Arafat said that the fateful bond among brothers can never be weakened, whatever the differences. 'Arafat asserted that this fateful bond lies in facing Israel with a unified stance toward the Palestine question and other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. 'Arafat said this bond is capable of dispelling all differences, whatever their size.

The Palestinian president went on to say that Egypt and the PLO had two different stands during the Gulf crisis. This does not mean, however, that Egypt and the PLO differ over all Arab issues, especially since the PLO supports Egypt's policy on the peace process and Egypt supports the PLO on the need to defend the Palestinian people's rights and their self-determination, and to face repeated Israeli attacks on Palestinian families.

'Arafat called for turning over a new leaf regarding, not only Egyptian-Palestinian relations, but also Arab relations as a whole, indicating that this represents an unavoidable need and a historic juncture, particularly at this time. 'Arafat said that our insistence as Arabs to maintain our differences will only benefit Israel.

President Mubarak said this was his basic principle, and that differences among nations and peoples should not be allowed to develop into a political and economic breach. President Mubarak pointed out that European countries have always had their differences, which might be wide at times. This, he added, has never prevented Europeans from meeting with each other and ironing out their differences.

To substantiate his viewpoint, Mubarak said Egypt was the one that sought consultation with the Palestinians when there appeared signs on the horizon of a possible political solution to the Palestinian problem. He added that Egypt opened its doors to every Palestinian who

wished to visit for consultations on this issue. When the Palestinian brothers asked us to put aside our different stands on the Gulf war, the Egyptian reply was that this crisis does not exist in our mind, and we said that the Palestinians, not the Egyptians, should overcome it.

President Mubarak criticized some statements by senior PLO officials, saying that they distort the Egyptian role and obstruct any step that could be taken. This, he said, will embarrass the political leadership in the eyes of Egyptian public opinion.

President Mubarak added that the Egyptian citizen cannot see his leadership and country abused while he firmly defends the Palestinians. Despite this, Mubarak said that Egypt will assume its responsibilities and historic role in resolving this problem. He noted that he will not pay any attention to any of the lapses that may occasionally occur.

Discussing the peace issue, 'Arafat said that the PLO is still waiting for the results of the U.S. move on the Israeli level. 'Arafat warned President Mubarak of the seriousness of the situation in the occupied Arab territory. He noted that the building of settlements will liquidate the Palestinian question, adding that Israel's policy also aims at liquidating the Palestinian people.

'Arafat cast doubt on the reality of the U.S. effort regarding the peace process. He said that if they are earnest in the peace process, they should have adopted many steps, which he defined as follows:

—They must impose economic measures against Israel to make it stop building settlements. It is not sufficient to hear a U.S. statement here and another statement there, criticizing the settlements while the U.S. Administration agrees on presenting economic and military assistance to the Israeli Government.

—The United States should not give secret guarantees to Israel. Here, 'Arafat wondered about U.S. strategy to resolve the Palestinian problem. He said that this strategy comes within the points of the secret guarantees that Israel received from the United States. These points neither recognize the Palestinians' right to establish their state nor accept UN Resolution No. 181.

—The United States should not give Israel guarantees affirming that the PLO will not participate in the peace process.

'Arafat disclosed that the U.S. delegation exerted efforts within this framework during its recent meeting with the Palestinian delegation in the occupied territory. He noted that a U.S. document is being prepared in this regard. He said that Israel received a written message from U.S. President George Bush in which he affirmed that the PLO will not participate in the peace process.

'Arafat told Mubarak: Israel will reject any Palestinian delegation formed to participate in the peace process, whether this delegation is from inside or outside the PLO.

The Palestinian president said that Israel wants to form the Palestinian delegation, to name its members, and to say that this is the delegation that we accept negotiating with on the Palestinian issue.

He added: The United States also wants to elect a Palestinian delegation, and then to tell Israel: You should accept this delegation because we are the ones who formed it. Israel then would accept this delegation as long as it is an American choice.

'Arafat stressed that if this logic continues regarding a solution to the Palestinian problem, then there will be no solution. He noted that the Americans and the Israelis have ready-made solutions, which will be offered to the delegation Israel and America will elect. He said that the task of such a delegation is to agree on solutions—no more, no less.

The Palestinian president added: This logic makes us say that the official Israeli delegation, which will represent Israel at the negotiations, will negotiate with another unofficial Israeli delegation; namely, the elected delegation.

At this point, 'Arafat referred to Mubarak's position on the need for the Palestinians to be represented by whoever can sincerely represent them. He said that the problem now lies not only in electing the Palestinian delegation, which is a procedural and objective issue at the same time, but also in the issue of Jerusalem, which is at the heart of the Palestinian question.

'Arafat adds: I do not object to the current peace efforts. I, personally, exert efforts with all international forces to reactivate the peace process. It is dangerous to accept any move, however, as long as it will not achieve the aspired results: namely, full rights.

The Palestinian president touched on his recent talks with Jordan's King Husayn. He said: My talks with King Husayn were not unsuccessful, as some sides depicted them. The differences between Jordan and the PLO regarding the issue of Palestinian representation will be settled within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee. He said that he hopes he will reach a representation formula through which the Israeli-U.S. pretexts to obstruct peace efforts can be overcome.

Regarding the U.S. insistence on not holding direct talks with the PLO, 'Arafat said: Jordan adopted the same position we adopted during the Gulf war. The United States ignored this position with Jordan, however, but not with the Palestinians. This means that there is a premeditated intention against the Palestinians, particularly against the PLO.

'Arafat revealed that he asked the United States, through international and Arab mediators, to hold meetings with Palestinian leaders, especially since what they are discussing and studying is related to the Palestinian question, but the U.S. Administration rejects this.

For his part, President Mubarak stressed the importance of the current political activity, saying that the importance of this activity lies in the fact that there are positive points that could be utilized in the interest of the Palestinian question. President Mubarak added: I think the PLO should overcome any differences over the form [of representation] so that Israel would not use it to obstruct the peace process. As for differences over substantive issues, these could be addressed during the talks.

President Mubarak said that whether or not the United States is serious about the peace process, we must acknowledge that it has a major influence on Israel, and since the United States has accepted to raise the issue with the Israelis, we should support it.

Mubarak specified several points, saying that these should be followed:

1. All problems related to the names of the Palestinian delegation inside the PLO and other Palestinian factions should be hashed out.

2. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee should finish its job quickly so that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination could be put into action as soon as possible.

3. Differences over the names proposed to join the Palestinian delegation should not take years to resolve, but should be settled within days.

4. Hasty Palestinian judgments or statements against the activity of any Arab or international party should not be made before solidifying and assessing this activity, so that all positive points could be utilized for the sake of the Palestinian question.

5. Egypt's stance on Jerusalem and other Palestinian rights is clear.

6. Egypt would not expect a detailed report on the PLO's opinion of the first three points.

Regarding the repeated Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, 'Arafat asked President Mubarak to exert all efforts to maintain the Palestinian people's right to live in these territories.

For his part, Mubarak asserted that Egypt is still making incessant efforts with Israel and all international forces.

The talks then shifted to the outcome of Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's recent meetings in Cairo, and the outcome of the meeting between the Palestinian delegation in the territories and U.S. officials. Despite the fact that 'Arafat stressed that these meetings did not produce a positive outcome, and despite the fact that Mubarak viewed them as steps along the road of peace, the two sides agreed that Egypt and the PLO would continue to exert efforts and provide all they could to help set the peace process in motion in October.

Mubarak and 'Arafat agreed on the importance of the current time to start the peace process, and the need not to waste time so that this would not lead to new setbacks for the peace process in the coming years.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Discusses Peace Conference

NC0409081591 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 30 Aug 91 pp 44-47

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, by Salwa Abu-Sa'dah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Sa'dah] Brother Abu-Mazin: You are in Cairo to hold further consultations with Egyptian officials about the current ideas being proposed for the peace process. The coup events in the Soviet Union, however, have gripped everyone's attention. In your opinion, how will some PLO officials' support for the coup affect the Soviet Union's position on the peace process following Gorbachev's return to power?

['Abbas] When considering the events that took place in the Soviet Union, only the official Palestinian stand should be taken into account, which is announced by the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, or the official Palestinian spokesman. Due to the democracy in the Palestinian arena, we will hear several conflicting statements, not only on this subject but on various subjects. Any judgment should therefore be based on the statements issued by WAFA—which did indeed issue a clear and frank statement on these events. This statement was officially adopted by us along with the international community and subsequently became well known.

In other words, any statement issued by any leader, by myself, or by others which is not published by WAFA represents only its author's opinion, and the PLO is not responsible for these statements in such cases. When the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO official spokesman, or the PLO information spokesman issues a statement which WAFA subsequently disseminates, however, it will be considered an expression of PLO views.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Some believe that these conflicting statements are trial balloons released by the PLO.

['Abbas] We do not use this method, nor is it a process of swapping roles, as some people like to claim.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] statement to LE FIGARO expressing his apprehension that the conference will become another Camp David?

['Abbas] I cannot say that Abu-'Ammar does not represent the PLO in his statements—he really does represents the PLO. I hope, however, that Abu-'Ammar's statements are closely examined, and I also hope that Abu-'Ammar's real meaning is understood. If he said such a thing, he did not mean to insult or harm Egypt.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How so, Abu-Mazin?

['Abbas] Egypt benefited from Camp David. We are discussing the part of the Camp David accord that deals with Palestine, not the part that deals with Egypt. Egypt took back its land and restored its sovereignty over its

territory. This is its right, and the subject must be understood within this context. I personally did not read the statement, but I can say with certainty, based on my knowledge of Abu-'Ammar, that he loves Egypt and would not say anything to cause it harm. Some of his statements, however, could be interpreted as harmful to Egypt. All the leaders of the Palestinian people might make such a mistake against the Egyptian people, all except Yasir 'Arafat. I told President Mubarak this when I met him.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What, then, is the PLO's official position on the events in the USSR?

['Abbas] Our position on these events is clear and specific. We believe that events in the USSR are an internal affair which the Soviet peoples must resolve by themselves. We hope they will overcome this crisis because we are friends and because it has an international role to play in world peace and the Middle East peace process.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In light of current international changes, the change in the world's balance of power, and recent and expected developments following the events in the USSR, what do you except from the USSR in the coming stage?

['Abbas] We have historic relations with the Soviets. They are friendly relations that continue regardless of changes or new leaders. We have maintained close ties with the USSR since 1968. We believe it is our friend and a friend to Arabs. In the past three years we have developed our relationship with them and I chair our higher coordination committee, called the Soviet-Palestinian Coordination Committee. We meet once every two months in Tunis or Moscow. This does not mean that we agree on everything. We have certain basic views in common, but we do disagree on other issues.

[Abu-Sa'dah] On what issues do you agree and disagree?

['Abbas] We do not disagree on the principles for a Middle East settlement, the USSR's role, or the prospects for a political settlement. We have disagreements on this issue with the Americans, not the Soviets. Jewish immigration is one of the issues on which we differ with the Soviets. This issue has caused much controversy between us and the Soviets for over 15 years now. We do not hide our disagreement with this policy and constantly discuss it with them, explaining the risks involved and its impact on the course of the Palestinian issue. We recently reached an agreement with them and they are going to turn the issue over to the Supreme Soviet so that the emigrant will obtain a passport and be able to choose whether he wants to go to Israel or not. This is a crucial point of disagreement but we are committed to maintaining a dialogue with them over it. We do not oppose the principle of Jewish, or other, emigration from the USSR. This is a human rights issue. Nevertheless, their right must not be exercised at the expense of my right as a Palestinian. It is not right that this emigration should result in the settlement of Jews on my land. Let them emigrate to the United States or to Israeli territory. I oppose and resist, however, their settlement in the occupied territories as is happening now. This is a point of disagreement, but not with the USSR, because it too opposes their settlement in the occupied territories.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Immigration has been an issue between you and the Soviets for more than 15 years. Are there not new points of disagreement between you, particularly in light of the changes in Soviet foreign policy?

['Abbas] We do not have any disagreements right now. Since the USSR began to work for a peace process with the United States, and the two countries called for a peace conference, we do not feel we have any disagreement with the USSR. On the other hand, clear points of disagreement exist with the American proposals.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has there been a change in the Soviet Union's policies in its outlook and foreign approach recently with all these changes inside the nation itself? Will a change in policy affect the Palestinian issue and other liberation issues in the Third World?

['Abbas] The change will not have an effect because the Soviet Union has its own interests. It is the USSR's right to seek its own interests as much as it is its right not to deal with issues with a certain ideology. The Soviet Union, however, has not abandoned us or our rights. It has not relinquished its international legitimacy. It has always insisted on applying this legitimacy in favor of our cause. This is what I am interested in regarding Soviet foreign policy.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What do you say about the Soviet stand during the Gulf crisis and about Saddam?

['Abbas] In this area, indeed, the Soviets used the language of national interests and acted in their own interest.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Now that regional and international efforts are focused on giving an impetus to the peace process, does the PLO not fear a change in stands—that national interests will be the primary factor—once the peace conference opens and its subcommittees begin to act?

['Abbas] We cannot vouch for anyone or guarantee that current exchanges with other parties will continue or that current positions will remain the same forever. We can only deal with what we see now.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Does the PLO expect the Soviet leadership's support to become lukewarm or change following statements made by several Arab regimes, as well as by the PLO, during the few hours the temporary state emergency committee was in control?

['Abbas] Gorbachev cannot say that the PLO supported the coup. The PLO came out right away and declared its position, which was dictated by its own interests. What happened in the Soviet Union was an internal matter. We are careful to maintain our friendship with the

Soviet Union. We are also eager to see the Soviet Union come out of its ordeal with the minimum possible losses so that it can resume its political role in the international arena.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In view of recent Soviet developments, do you expect the peace conference, which was originally scheduled for October, to be postponed?

['Abbas] It has been said that the conference would be held in October without determining a specific date. However, I do not believe that what took place in the Soviet Union, particularly the quick end to the coup, should have an impact on the conference. The problem does not lie in recent developments in the Soviet Union, but rather in fulfilling the conditions of the conference. We believe that the conditions of the conference have not yet been met. There are certain points about which we spoke here in Egypt as well as in public. These points have not yet been met.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How will Palestinian action change in view of the radical changes in the international arena and the emergence of a single superpower? Some changes began following the meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers.

['Abbas] The slogan of international legitimacy was raised in Algiers. We presented an initiative, the first of its kind in the history of the Palestinian struggle, that said mainly that we are ready to conform to, agree to, and accept international legitimacy. Three or four years have passed but, regrettably, the world has not responded.

The United States came up with its initiative when President Bush declared his four points and said that he was ready to solve the Middle East problem on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, land in return for peace, the Palestinians' legitimate political rights, and security and peace for Israel and the countries of the region. We said we agreed to these points.

The second point is that when James Baker came to the region and wanted to meet the Palestinians in the occupied territories, we advised our brothers there to do so. He met seven times with Palestinians from both inside and outside the occupied territories. We officially announced that we were interested in the essence of the settlement—that is, the basis for the settlement—and that we would discuss and resolve the other questions with our Arab brothers. We want a real essence based on international legitimacy. As to how we will go, in what form we will go, and within what framework we will go, these are all issues and questions we will discuss with our Arab brothers. It is from this premise that we dealt with the Soviet, U.S., and European efforts.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has no new dialogue taken place between the PLO and the Americans since their suspension in Tunis?

['Abbas] No. We have not held direct talks with them. Talks have been limited to the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. Our direct dialogue has been with the Soviet side through the committee we have already mentioned. It has been the same with the European side. This is in addition to our constant dialogue with our brothers in Egypt. This is the seventh meeting with officials here. Meetings have also been held with our brothers in Jordan, Syria, and north Africa who are expected to be partners in the peace conference. We are moving in this direction because we want to reach peace and a settlement that is based on international legitimacy.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In your view, from which side is the delay and impediment coming? Is it from the American side or the Israeli one?

['Abbas] There is a point here which we must discuss. The United States adopts Israeli conditions and then conveys them to us. If the United States wants to be a fair referee, it must be fair. When it mentions Jerusalem, it recognizes that Arab Jerusalem is an occupied Arab land. Then it submits to Israeli blackmail that Jerusalem will not be represented in the peace conference. Why? It is understood that Israel, as a foe or an enemy, wants to get everything. The United States should not allow it to make exaggerated demands and conditions if it really wants to establish real peace in the Middle East.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Egypt supports you on the Jerusalem issue, the PLO, Palestinian representation, and the halting of settlements. How do you feel, however, about its recent initiative linking the ending of the Arab boycott against Israel to the halting of settlements?

['Abbas] As President Mubarak has said, Egypt supports us on three issues: Jerusalem, halting the settlements, and the PLO. In our discussions, Mubarak emphasized this stand. We thank Egypt for this clear, frank, and excellent stand.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about the initiative linking the ending of the boycott to the halting of the settlements? This initiative has been supported by a number of Arab states, particularly the Gulf states.

['Abbas] The problem is that Israel has rejected this initiative. The Egyptian president issued it and the Gulf states, Jordan, and other states encouraged and supported it. Israel, however, rejected the initiative because it is determined to build more settlements. The Israeli reaction killed the initiative.

[Abu-Sa'dah] The Egyptian stand is based on the premise that the Palestinian resistance respond positively and continue to be an entity in the arena in order to participate in the peace conference. Let the rejection come from the Israeli side. What is your comment on this approach?

['Abbas] Great! We approve of it. The PLO must participate in the efforts. If there is a rejection, let it come from

Israel. I support that approach. We support the convening of the peace conference. If the conference is not convened, even for Israeli reasons, our cause will suffer.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Your statement forces us to ask why the PLO did not attend the Mena House conference in the late 1970's?

['Abbas] This is part of the past. We can also ask why we did not approve of the partition? Why we did not approve of the plans submitted in the 1930's and 1940's? This was a mistake on our part. However, we should put the past behind us. We now frankly declare our acceptance of international legitimacy. From 1973 to 1986 the world kept asking us to accept Resolutions 242 and 338. We now accept them. What has happened? What more is required from us?

We accepted Israel's existence. We approved Resolution 242. We accepted Israel's right to exist. It is Israel, backed by the United States, that is now rejecting everything.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Abu Mazin, has the PLO drawn up specific scenarios of what the U.S. and Israel stands would be in the coming stage, such as the talk about settlement and the need to establish peace in an area that is liable to explode at any minute, particularly now when there are rumors that U.S. Secretary of State Baker will make a seventh tour of the region? Following Gorbachev's return to power, the U.S. and Soviet sides have announced their intention to continue their efforts to hold the conference in October.

['Abbas] There are issues and memorandums still pending, including the memorandums of understanding which the parties have demanded. We are discussing these topics with the United States. The same thing is going on with the Syrians, Jordanians, and Israelis. This is a question that must be settled first.

Our delegation in the occupied territories is discussing this memorandum on our behalf. The delegation includes Faysal al- Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Zuhayrah Kamal, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, and a number of consultants.

The question of Jerusalem has also not been solved. Israel rejects its participation and the United States continues to support the Israeli stand. We do not accept the fact that Jerusalem would not be represented and not included in the agenda. Here, no one can say that we are impeding the settlement because we will not enter into one that would squander our rights in Jerusalem. Neither we nor the Muslims, nor even the Christians of the world, would accept such a thing.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What do you expect Israel and the United States to do?

['Abbas] If the United States wants the conference to be held on time, then it must first find a solution to these issues, particularly Jerusalem, but also to the settlement question because they are essential questions. As to the question of Palestinian representation, we are discussing it within the Arab framework.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has an agreement been reached on the composition of the Palestinian representation? What is the most probable composition: would it be a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or a unified Arab one?

['Abbas] We are still discussing this point. We have not reached anything specific and nothing specific has been rejected. All options are open.

[Abu-Sa'dah] It has been recently reported that in its efforts to find a solution to the question of Palestinian representation, Egypt has proposed that if an agreement is reached on forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Palestinian flag should be raised next to the Jordanian one and the delegation's chairmanship should alternate.

['Abbas] Such details have not been submitted in this way. Three alternatives have been proposed: An independent Palestinian delegation, a joint Arab delegation, or a Palestinian-Jordanian one. This is an issue between us and the Syrian, Jordanian, and Egyptian sides that no interferes in. It will not be a problem between us.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about the memorandums of understanding that the United States has asked for?

['Abbas] The United States has announced that when it receives the memorandums of understanding and when an agreement is reached on them it will then make them public, based on its promise that there will be no secret agreements.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about Egypt's role at this stage?

['Abbas] Egypt will not submit a memorandum of understanding because it is not a party to the conflict; its role in the conference will be that of a party which does not have a specific issue to raise. It will enter primarily because it has a relationship with the Israeli side; second, because it is motivated by its traditional and pan-Arab responsibility and its role in the effort to safeguard pan-Arab security; and third, as an Arab party which will assist the other Arab parties concerned with the region's crisis and in order to help the Palestinian people regain their rights.

[Abu-Sa'dah] It is known that Israeli strategy has envisioned several alternatives to autonomy. What are your views on this issue?

['Abbas] In the worst possible scenario, if matters were left to the Israelis, they would be willing to grant administrative autonomy to the people but not to the territory, because they believe that the land is theirs. Does the international community accept this idea? We do not object to interim, phased solutions that start with one scenario and then proceed to another specific scenario until the Palestinian people achieve self-determination. We have no objection to this, and if they agree to grant us autonomy, we want the process to take place under

international supervision—we want an internationally supervised autonomy. This will all be subject to negotiation, because no specific formula has been clearly defined for discussion. We are now heading toward a peace conference which, following the opening session, will involve negotiations by committees on the two bases specified by James Baker: land for peace and Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Abu-Sa'dah] It has been said that the PLO's biggest fear is that, after the conference ends and the committees begin their work, the Arab parties will settle their individual problems with the Israelis, but the Palestinian delegation will fail to obtain its rights and demands.

['Abbas] This is a legitimate Palestinian fear, but this nevertheless depends—to a certain extent—on our Arab brothers, who must refuse to accept any partial solutions before the main Palestinian issue is resolved. Any other behavior will mean that they have abandoned the issue. We know that our issue is the most complex and difficult one, while the others are simple. If each Arab country resolves its problems and abandons us, it will be a tragedy. It is necessary to solve all the issues together. Signing an agreement on even the easy issues must wait until all other issues have been resolved, and we are currently discussing this proposal with our Arab brothers. Four-party consultations must be held to discuss this matter. Three years ago we asked for such a four-party meeting to enhance coordination, but regrettably such a meeting was not held.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In your opinion, why has such a meeting not been held?

['Abbas] The unhealthy climate among the Arab countries. We hope that the situation has improved, as it will not be possible or reasonable for us to go to any peace conference if our positions have not been coordinated in advance. It will be a wasted effort. Anyone who refuses such coordination is not serious about attaining a solution that is honorable to all parties.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Will the next Algiers conference discuss the question of changing the Palestinian leadership, particularly because the issue has now been raised, most recently by Khalid al-Hasan?

['Abbas] German television has asked me the same question. Yasir 'Arafat has struggled from the beginning, leading the struggle since 1965—and even before, when he led the Palestinian students struggle. He then became PLO chairman and continues to hold this position to this day. 'Arafat has been the symbol of the Palestinian struggle for 26 years.

At one time, Yasir 'Arafat could have been a controversial factor, as was the case during the 1983 dissension. In my view, 'Arafat has never had as much popularity as he does today. I am certain that if the PNC and the Palestinian people are asked who they want their president to be, they will tell you "the kaffiyeh" (headdress) of Yasir 'Arafat. That is the symbol. The doubt that is being cast on his election and leadership is suspicious. He is the undisputed leader of the Palestinian people, and there is no alternative.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But could there not be an alternative, especially because you practice real democracy and considering that developments during the struggle con[illegible] necessitate such a change if this would, in the end, serve the cause?

['Abbas] First, many things could happen that would bring about a change. You mentioned elections. This did happen at the recent Fatah conference, when twelve new leaders joined the leadership. Two had been martyred—we lost more than 12 leaders in 20 years. Any one of us might be martyred today or tomorrow, and change is always possible. As long as Yasir 'Arafat is at the head of this leadership, I do not visualize for a single minute any casting of doubt on his leadership, especially during these crises we are currently experiencing.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What methods do you expect Israel to use next to evade the peace march that some parties are trying to continue in an effort to solve the conflict in the region?

['Abbas] At first, it will try to block the conference and prevent it from being held. If it is held, Israel will then try to impede it during its convocation. If the conference continues, it will then hinder the efforts to achieve concrete results. It will raise the question: What is the role of the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union? The latter must try to remove all the obstacles to the conference's convocation and must eliminate Israel's excuses in order to reach a settlement based on international legitimacy.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is your alternative if Israel succeeds in its ploy of using excuses at every stage?

['Abbas] To continue our struggle against the Israeli occupation with all the available legitimate means. When we are under the yoke of occupation, it is our right to fight it, which we are now doing with the intifadah. If the people despair, however, then no one knows what they will do or what methods they will employ. This is the unknown.

On Attendance at Peace Talks

NC0409151691 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Sep 91 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, by correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo on 31 August]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] The conditions for convening a peace conference are not yet complete. This depends on you, the Palestinians. What is your next step?

['Abbas] Satisfying the conditions depends on the United States. It is required to clarify some necessary points concerning the Palestinian conditions. The most

important condition concerns Jerusalem, both as an issue and with regard to representation. I mean the issue of Jerusalem must be discussed at the negotiations and Jerusalem must have its own representatives. Second, it is imperative in these circumstances to halt settlement building completely immediately after the negotiations begin. Third, the United States must present us with a memorandum of understanding that specifies the stands it previously announced. If these conditions are satisfied, it will pave the way for holding an international conference.

[Al-Sa'id] What many people believe, however, is that you must make up your mind starting now on the form your participation in the peace conference will take. Time is passing and all you have been saying to date is that you will reach agreement on representation with your Arab brothers. Indeed, the Arab parties with whom you are discussing this issue are wondering why you have not yet decisively determined who will represent the Palestinians.

['Abbas] The Arab parties with whom we are discussing the situation know exactly what we want. The representation issue, however, is left until after the pending issues I have mentioned are settled. Representation will not be an obstacle when these problems end.

[Al-Sa'id] The representation issue, however, is the starting point for any moves made by the other parties. For example, some Arab parties will not respond to the call to hold a four-party conference "to coordinate Arab stands prior to the peace conference" until the PLO agrees to attend a peace conference and decides the representation issue.

['Abbas] As I said, the form the representation will take is not a difficult or complicated issue. During the calm discussions we conduct with the Arab parties, they realize it is not a problem. Consequently, I do not agree that holding a four-party meeting, "Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO," depends on the PLO's response to the call to attend the peace conference. We can discuss this issue, among others, at a quadripartite meeting if they wish.

[Al-Sa'id] Nevertheless, when you met with the Jordanians—Jordan being directly concerned with the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—you did not reach agreement and did not form a delegation.

['Abbas] It is not true that we did not agree. We agreed on numerous issues, including the determination of our basic demands, we and Jordan. These are the three things we demand from the United States. We agreed to make joint moves to seek satisfaction of these demands. This means we reached a specific understanding on the principles, according to which we will go to the peace conference. We will continue discussing the other issues.

[Al-Sa'id] You did not, however, reach agreement on representation, the issue which will propel the peace process.

['Abbas] It is not necessary for us to agree on this issue now before we get clear answers on the issues I mentioned. The Arab countries which have agreed to attend the conference, and Israel, have had their conditions satisfied. So far our conditions have not been satisfied, and we cannot agree to a peace conference that says no to Jerusalem and yes to continued settlement building. We must first be sure of the U.S. position on these two issues. Then after we guarantee the substance, the form [of representation] will be a very simple matter.

[Al-Sa'id] Some may ask about who will guarantee all this, particularly since all these issues are items on the negotiations list.

['Abbas] These are issues that America should guarantee beforehand. America must say that Jerusalem is an occupied land and is part of the occupied Palestinian territories. This is an American stand that has been declared in the past and endorsed by the UN Security Council. So why does America not take the initiative and state this now? Similarly, settlements are illegal. This has been stated more than once before. So why does the United States not say that settlement activities should at least stop? Although the settlements that have been built are illegal, we are not asking now for their removal. We are just asking for a halt in settlement building. These are guarantees that should be given before we go to the peace conference. We have a right to make such a demand, precisely because Israel has asked for a memorandum of understanding and because the Syrians insisted on UN participation. If our requests are met, we certainly will say yes to the peace conference. As for the representation, this is a matter of form and does not represent any problem at all. We will resolve that issue with Jordan, Egypt, or Syria, simply and quickly.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that unless America presents guarantees concerning Jerusalem and the settlements, you will not attend the peace conference?

['Abbas] Yes, if we feel that America will not provide these guarantees, we will not attend. Unless there is confirmation that Jerusalem is an occupied land and that the building of settlements should stop, why should we go to the peace conference? We would not go. This then would mean that America has retracted its declared positions and its commitment to international legitimacy as represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. There are scores of resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. I am not asking for UN General Assembly resolutions, just for those of the Security Council concerning Jerusalem and the settlements. I am asking America for its declared stands on these two points. I am not asking for a prior commitment. All I am requesting is that America tell us: Yes, this is our position on these points. In this case, I will go to the conference. But if America does not give us guarantees, why should we bother to go? Would we attend to finish Jerusalem and open negotiations that may last for years until all the land is filled with settlements? In this case, I am not ready to go. Let the

entire Arab nation take the responsibility for that: for the loss of Jerusalem and the land.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you not afraid that the Palestinians will be avoided, particularly since Shamir is already saying that it is possible to hold the conference without the Palestinians?

['Abbas] The conference is basically meant to resolve the Middle East problem, which is the Palestinian problem. I do not think it is being held for the environment, water, weapons, or for the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arabs. The peace conference basically is to settle the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis. So if the Palestinians do not attend, I do not think that there will be any purpose in holding it.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you also believe that Arab countries will not attend the peace conference without the Palestinians?

['Abbas] I hope that Arab countries will not attend in this case. In general, we have not spoken with one Arab country that disagreed with us on that point. Egypt told us it insists on three matters: Halting the settlements, recognizing that Jerusalem is an occupied land, and accepting a PLO role. Similar understanding exists with Syria and Jordan, as well as with Gulf and North African countries. There is no Arab country that accepts attending a conference that would exclude Jerusalem. Therefore, I may state that unless the Palestinians attend the conference, Arab countries will stay away from it.

[Al-Sa'id] The Palestinians have lost a lot recently, especially after the Gulf crisis, the 180-degree turn in international policy, and the developments in the Soviet Union. Are they the side that must accept everything or suffer further losses?

['Abbas] Some say the PLO has lost certain things because of the Gulf war and the USSR events. But this does not mean that the PLO will accept anything.

[Al-Sa'id] But you must be apprehensive that the peace process will harm you and will not achieve much.

['Abbas] The Palestinian people say we might go to the peace conference and yet obtain nothing. This is correct. The peace conference might not be held after all. If it is held, it might not continue. If it continues, it might achieve nothing. But if the necessary conditions for going to the peace conference are fulfilled, we will go in order to struggle with the hope of achieving something for our people.

[Al-Sa'id] Mahmud 'Abbas is a bitter enemy of Faruq Qaddumi. Both of you represent different trends. You are a moderate and he is an extremist. Yet both of you are PLO Executive Committee members.

['Abbas] First of all, Faruq Qaddumi is our foreign minister. He is a brother, a colleague, a friend, and not an enemy. He is being described as extremist and inflexible. In fact, he is not so. He is a wise man with lengthy experience in politics. But some media quarters and some parties are trying to depict him as a radical. In fact, he is not. I know him very well, unlike others.

[Al-Sa'id] You speak of contacts and dialogue with other factions. I ask you, what are these factions and why you do not identify them? Are they represented in the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

['Abbas] There is an ongoing dialogue with two groups—the Hamas movement and the Palestinian groups calling themselves the salvation front. Some of these groups are represented in the PNC and some are not. Whenever the PNC is slated to convene, we hold a dialogue with all forces, regardless of their strength. Therefore, we have held a dialogue with the two groups. Regrettably, the salvation front has put forth unacceptable conditions. It is trying to impose unacceptable groups on the PNC, like the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group. Abu-Nidal is a murderer and cannot attend the PNC meetings. In addition, it has set prior political conditions.

[Al-Sa'id] Do these conditions include the infusion of new blood into the PLO?

['Abbas] New blood and many other things. This made us reject the conditions out of hand because we are not ready to go to a PNC session with preconditions. As to the dialogue with Hamas, it is continuing and might succeed or fail.

[Al-Sa'id] It is being said that as a way of circumventing the question of East Jerusalem representation, it might be possible for Hazim Nusaybah [former Jordanian defense minister] to participate in the delegation. Do you oppose the participation of anyone with Jordanian citizenship, even if he originally comes from East Jerusalem?

['Abbas] We believe that Jerusalem must be represented by people residing in the city, not Jerusalem-born individuals who are now outside the occupied territories, regardless of their citizenship. What is important is that they should be Jerusalem residents and represent Jerusalem from within.

[Al-Sa'id] With regard to Jerusalem, is it possible for the Palestinians to accept taking back what is called old Jerusalem, where the religious sites are located?

['Abbas] This is impossible. The Jerusalem we want back is the entire Arab Jerusalem occupied in 1967.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you certain the United States will intervene at the appropriate time to prevent the conference and the negotiations from stumbling?

['Abbas] According to our information, the peace conference will convene with a plenary session attended by all parties. It will then end its meeting and the committees will begin their work. The United States and the USSR will remain close to the committees so that if they stumble at any stage, the two countries will intervene. This is useful. We hope the United States will intend to

do something and that it will have the necessary resolve and sincere wish to establish peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you object to holding the conference in Washington?

['Abbas] We do not object to the venue of the conference. But if it is held in Cairo, this will be better for many reasons. It is an Arab country, and second, it supports the Palestinian issue.

[Al-Sa'id] To go back to the first point, we are in September and only one month remains before the peace conference. I wonder when you will form the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

['Abbas] We will announce the composition of our Palestinian representation at the appropriate time.

Hamas Official on Dialogue With PLO

JN0409083091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Sep 91 pp 32, 28

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan has stressed that the current dialogue between a PLO delegation and Hamas has not yet resulted in any agreement between the two sides, despite a detailed discussion of various political issues on which the two sides differ.

On Hamas' conditions to participate in the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO, Eng. Ghawshah said: We have not set conditions, but have presented concepts—the most important of which is rejecting the idea of appointing the PNC members. This is because after more than 70 years of fierce struggle, the Palestinian people should have the right to elect their own representatives through free, honest elections.

He noted that conducting such elections is difficult, but not impossible. He added: The United Nations supervised such elections in the past. The Arab League can also supervise similar elections in the Arab countries hosting Palestinians. Hamas has asked the PLO to exert efforts to hold such elections, especially since they constitute the best option for the PNC, which should make fateful decisions that concern not only the Palestinian people, but also the Arab and Islamic nations.

On the number of seats the movement demands and the quotas for the Palestinian organizations, which have only 110 seats, the Hamas representative pointed out that the movement is demanding 40 percent of the total PNC seats, which number 451. He said that talk about the organizations' seats is merely another opinion to which we pay no attention.

He noted that one of the most important concepts Hamas presented to the PLO is that the PLO should commit itself to the liberation of Palestine from the sea to the river and to armed struggle as a way and means, and that the Palestine question is an Arab and Islamic issue which must not be dealt with unilaterally.

Eng. Ghawshah said: If elections for the PNC membership are not held—even if the PLO agrees to give us our rights as an Islamic movement, considering our size in the Palestinian arena—we will seek, along with the other forces, to cancel the Algiers resolutions, which implicitly recognize Israel through the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 242.

He added: Hamas, in cooperation with its allies in the PNC, will also seek to change all the political trends that would lead to recognizing the Jewish state, and to amend the Palestinian National Charter to make it spring from the Islamic ideology and to stress the liberation of the entire Palestinian land. It will also change the PLO's political program, and begin administrative, financial, and organizational reforms in the PLO's institutions and departments to bring them in line with Islamic ideology.

Eng. Ghawshah adds: Hamas is an ally of all the other Islamic forces in the Palestinian arena. It is in the same trench with these forces, which are bound by Islam despite some differences and disparity in viewpoints.

He said: Hamas will not accept being merely a voice of opposition in the PNC. Therefore, Hamas will use its weight and size to introduce the required change in the PLO's political course in harmony with Islam and the political programs of the Islamic movement that are also based on Islam.

Regarding Hamas relations with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], Eng. Ghawshah pointed out that there are some common denominators between the movement and the PFLP, and that they both reject the peace conference, especially since Hamas rejects the principle of negotiations because they will be held between the usurper and the usurped, and are not based on justice, right, and logic.

Concerning the Hamas stand in case the PLO goes to the peace conference, he said: The so-called peace conference is designed to liquidate the Palestine question in favor of America and the Jews. Hamas will certainly reject this strongly, and will translate this rejection into practical stands through the blessed intifadah, from outside the intifadah, and through the ways and means it deems appropriate, in harmony with the objective circumstances of every stage.

Algeria

Interior Minister on Southern Security Problems

LD0209194891 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, Sep 2 (APS)—"The southern region of our country witness at present events which are becoming more and more important and which threaten the security of our populations in this region", Interior Minister Abdellatif Rahhal, told the third channel of the national radio. This situation is not the result of Algerian factors but, in fact, results from a regrettable situation which exists in our neighbouring countries, mainly Mali", added Rahhal underlining that "the problem of Touareg is an old problem. This problem exists because the place occupied by the Touareg covers the borders with a number of countries, particularly along the Algerian border."

"Such a situation creates difficulties from time to time. For instance in 1963," he recalled, "There was a great operation of repression in Mali and this led a great number of Malian Touareg to come to Algeria. In 1970," he added, "when there was drought in the Sahel, we also had a flow of Touareg from Mali or Niger who settled in our country and who also created problems."

"Now," the interior minister added, "we are also facing a difficult situation. When the problems I am talking about have been tackled by the authorities, there have been both summit and ministerial meetings between officials of the neighbouring countries so as to try and find solutions and the latest meeting was held in Tramanrasset (south of Algeria). It led to the signature of an agreement on the basis of which the Malian authorities committed themselves to grant a form of economy to the Touareg populations in the north of Mali. But it seems that there has been at least a misunderstanding and this has led to a rebellion which created the present situation in the borders. This rebellion is an armed one and this is what explains the fact that weapons are used in this area. This has increased daily the number of refugees. We are also witnessing a flow of refugees and a situation of insecurity which is aggravated daily.

"The Algerian government does not ignore these things. It is following the situation." The minister pointing out that he is in contact with all the deputies of the south of the country and that he will attend a meeting with high officials from various ministries.

"For the time being, there are immediate measures we are planning to undertake immediate measures at least at the humanitarian level, to reinforce the security measures, to avoid arms smuggling. This work is extremely difficult because of the nature of the country and its surface. These are immediate measures to avoid that the problem takes greater dimensions.

"We are going to undertake a series of measures so as to really try and solve the problem. These measures include measures which will be implemented by Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and even the Foreign Ministry because the problem must be settled diplomatically with neighbouring governments," the interior minister concluded.

Security Situation Discussed

LD0209163491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] You may remember that we reported last week about the security problems in Tamanrasset and in the southern region in general. At that time you were able to hear the minister of the interior, Mr. Rahal, talk about this and he announced imminent new measures. This morning a closed-door meeting was held at the Ministry of the Interior. The minister of the interior and local collectivities, Mr. Abdellatif Rahal, had stated that with regard to the situation on Algeria's southern border there was a tendency to exaggerate events to give them dramatic character. In a statement at the opening of the meeting about which I have mentioned—a meeting to assess the situation in the south of Algeria which was held behind closed doors this morning in the presence also of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense, the gendarmerie, and the general directorate of criminal police—the Minister, Mr. Rahal, stressed that it was a question of reaching lasting solutions to the problems at the root of this situation on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation.

Raising the agreement concluded between the Malian Government and Tuareg representatives—the Tamanrasset accord of January 1991—the minister pointed out that the delay suffered in the implementation of the accord after the political changes that have occurred in Mali has led to the unleashing of armed operations waged by Tuareg groups. Reaffirming Algeria's support for the Tamanrasset accord as the best framework for settling the ethnic problem between the Tuareg tribes, the minister of the interior said he hoped that the Malian authorities would grant the same significance to the accord. At any rate, Mali will find in Algeria the support needed to get over all the difficulties that are hindering the restoration of security. In all events, I think that we will have more information about this closed-door meeting this afternoon.

Egypt

Palestinian Designs on U.S. Ships Foiled

NC0409114891 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, Sept 4 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have arrested two Palestinians who planned to carry out attacks against U.S. ships travelling through the Suez Canal, the weekly news magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reported Wednesday.

AL-MUSAWWAR said the Palestinians had admitted under interrogation that their action was meant to "undermine American-Egyptian ties, tourism as well as security and stability in Egypt."

They were to "attack American ships travelling through the Suez Canal as well as cruise boats in the Nile," the magazine said.

The Palestinians were part of a wider cell of "saboteurs" who were arrested last week when they arrived in Nuwaybi', in the Sinai, in a Mercedes car. "Two missiles and launching pads were concealed in the vehicle," AL-MUSAWWAR said.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa on Monday said security forces had dismantled a "terrorist plan to destabilise security and stability in the country." But he did not reveal the number of people arrested nor their nationalities.

Terrorists Tied to al-Jihad

NC0409145291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian security organs have arrested a subversive cell that planned to commit terrorist acts to destabilize security in Egypt.

In its edition for Friday, 6 September, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR says that the cell consists of two Palestinians from the al-Jihad group. The two Palestinians were arrested immediately after their arrival in Nuwaybi'. They were carrying two rockets with launchers hidden in a compartment fitted on the side of their car.

The Palestinians admitted they arrived in Egypt to sabotage Egyptian-U.S. relations, cause great damage to tourism, and destabilize the country.

The Palestinians said their mission was to strike any U.S. ship passing through the Suez Canal by firing a rocket from a launcher set a great distance from the canal. They also planned a similar attack on any of the tourist river boats operating between Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan.

AL-MUSAWWAR says that the two Palestinians were in touch with some members of the al-Jihad group in Egypt, who were going to provide them with accommodation and hide them during their stay in the country.

Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that the Egyptian security service was aware of the saboteurs' plan before their arrival in Nuwaybi' and arrested them as soon as they arrived.

Minister Musa said the State Security Prosecution Office is investigating the case to find the link between the Palestinian and Egyptian al-Jihad groups and whether any Arab countries are involved in the case.

The interior minister asserted his full confidence in the vigilance and ability of the Egyptian security service and its ability to uncover such plots and apprehend those involved.

Consultations With PLO on Conference Continue

PM0409114391 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Aug 91 p4

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Abu-Mazin: Full Understanding Between the PLO and Jordan on Main Peace Conference Issues"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs Dr. Usamah al-Baz yesterday held two separate meetings with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin). Meanwhile, Egyptian and Palestinian sources expect the issue of Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference to be resolved soon. According to Palestinian sources, the text of the U.S. guarantees requested by the PLO may be passed on to Washington through the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem or through an Arab state.

Egyptian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the two meetings—held just hours after President Husni Mubarak's Banghazi meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat following al-Qadhdhafi's mediation the day before yesterday—were held for the purpose of consultation and coordination on matters related to the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin said that, during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, agreement was reached on "important steps along the road of extensive Jordanian-Palestinian coordination." He expressed hope that an Arab League council session would be held at foreign minister level to iron out differences, mend the rift, and restore Arab solidarity.

He emphasized that "contrary to press reports, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman did not fail." He noted that "full agreement was reached on main issues relating to the peace conference." [passage omitted]

Egyptian sources say that the Banghazi meeting reaffirmed the following main points in the Arab position and moves:
1. The need for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the dismantling of Jewish settlements in these territories in accordance with UN resolutions.
2. Willingness to take a number of steps in the context of the policy of building trust between the Arab and Israeli sides.
3. The Palestinian people's right to choose their own representatives in the Jordanian delegation to the peace conference.
4. Fulfillment of the Palestinian people's inalienable national and legitimate rights as enjoyed by other peoples of the world.

5. East Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied West Bank and will be represented by the Palestinians in the joint delegation. Resolution 242 also applies to it.
6. The need for declared, specific aims for the conference. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Media, King's Actions Decried

NC0409182891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Cairo newspapers issued today criticize the ceaseless attack being waged against Egypt by the Jordanian newspapers and the vulgar language these papers use just because Egypt has refuted the false claims stated in the Jordanian "white paper".

On its first page, AL-AKHBAR comments on news agency reports on this attack by the Jordanian papers. It says the role King Husayn has been playing since the outset of the Gulf crisis is suspicious. Remember that the king deliberately changed his name to al-Sharif [a descendant of the Prophet] Husayn to prepare himself for taking his share of the loot which Saddam Husayn was to get his hands on.

The paper says it is well known that the Iraqi ruler has paid King Husayn's price for his role in the Gulf crisis.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the king does nothing without setting a price. It is those who stood with Saddam and encouraged the continuation of his foolish adventure who brought destruction upon two Arab countries, the paper says, while those who offered sincere advice were lawfully and sincerely defending an entire nation.

The paper also says the king telephoned President Mubarak more than once during the former's European tour in an attempt to determine a date to visit Egypt. Proceeding from its responsibile position and constructive pan-Arab role, Egypt saw these attempts as a suspect endeavor to carry on with a suspicious role which was exposed by events.

In conclusion, the paper says: Here is the Jordanian media being dragged once again behind the suspicious policies of the king who insists on falsifying the facts of the very recent past.

Under the headline "When Snakes Come Out of Their Pits," AL-AKHBAR editorial asks: What can we expect from a snake other than for it to spit out its venom whenever it wishes and to take revenge against anyone seeking to avoid its evil or harm or remove it from its pit to protect the people against its hazard?

The paper adds: Certain Arab snakes recently have come out of the pits in which they have been hiding, hoping that time would draw a heavy curtain over their harmful deeds, which brought unprecedented calamities upon the entire Arab nation. Here comes the Jordanian king, who calls himself al-Sharif, thinking that the time is ripe for purging himself of the stains of a recent past whose memories are still fresh.

AL-AKHBAR adds: If only he did that without trying to hurl stones at others, while he himself is living in a house of glass which is about to collapse without being touched.

The paper continues: What is most eccentric about this conduct, which is not new to King Husayn, is that it comes in the wake of failing attempts to come to Cairo. He wants to meet with President Mubarak and exchange with him embraces and kisses before the camera, hoping that his soiled reputation—gained because of his unethical support for his partner the Iraqi ruler in the crime of invading Kuwait—would be purged clean. He hopes to achieve the goal of forgetting the past, turning a new leaf, and letting bygones be bygones.

The editorial concludes that the Jordanian king's disappointment at Cairo's refusal to respond to his insincere wish made him seek another approach to clear his name and defend himself. Hence, he started to level false accusations and misleading allegations at the Arab leader whose firm stand and refusal to fall in the traps, in which the king himself has fallen, have been regarded by the entire world as the thing which saved the entire Arab nation from the fate designed by Saddam Husayn and his clique, the clique in which King Husayn was the most active and conspicuous member.

Libya

Baltics' Independence Affirms Green Book

LD0409223891 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi], the leader of the era of the Jamahir, has sent a cable to the leaders of the three Baltic states—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The following is the text:

We present to you the warmest congratulations on the declaration of your independence from the so-called Soviet Union.

Your situation was similar to ours, when we were under the yoke of Turkish colonialism. Communism or Sovietism is similar to Ottomanism and Christianity, which exploited religion to justify hegemony and supremacy of the strongest nation over the other nations, and [allowed] the reigns of sultans and emperors to linger.

Good people, like you and us, for a long time believed such a colonialist trick. However, the era of the Jamahiri, which has been heralded by the Green Book, has shortened the period of your subjugation to the hegemony of the Russian nation. You awoke in 60 years. We, before the era of the Jamahir, had continuously been cheated for 600 years.

Your awakening and the declaration of your independence practically affirm to the whole human race the trueness of the Green Book's prophecies and the inevitable realization of the dogmas of the Jamahiri International Theory, which has wondered: Why has the world

map been changing from one era to another? The reason lies in whether any political formation is congruously corresponding to the social formation or not; if so, it continues and does not change. And if it is altered or weakened as a result of foreign colonialism, it will reemerge under the banner of a struggle for nationhood and/or national awakening and unity.

However, if the political formation includes more than one nation, its map will be torn up by the independence of every nation under the banner of its own nationality. The maps of world empires have thus far been torn up because they included within them a number of nations. It did not take long before every nation became a zealot partisan, aware of its own nationality and demanding independence. Thus, political empires were torn down to their social components. Evidence of this can be found in every historical era, if one studies them again. All countries including various nationalities—be it for religious, economic, military, or doctrinal reasons—will be torn up by national struggle until every nation is independent.

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Meet 29 Aug

LD3008164691 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Banghazi, Hannibal [August] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received yesterday the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. The reception was attended by Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Jamal al-Surani, member of the Executive Committee, Abu-al-Tayeb the Presidency official, and Abu-al-Rub 'Izzat, the ambassador of Palestine in Great Jamahiriyah.

Justice Secretary, Chadian Minister Hold Talks

LD0409191791 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice met in Tripoli this morning with Maldoum Baba Abbas, deputy prime minister and interior minister in the Republic of Chad. A number of issues, which are of interest to the two countries, were discussed with regard to security and justice during the meeting. They also discussed the significance of deepening and developing existing fraternal relations and cooperation between the two countries.

'Text' of Law on Freedom

LD0209092891 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1139 GMT 1 Sep 91

['Text' of Law No. 20, 1991, formulated by the General People's Congress, on the consolidation of freedom]

[Text] The General People's Congress. Law No. 20 of 1991 concerning the consolidation of freedom.

The General People's Congress: In implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses at their second ordinary session of 1397 After the Death of the Prophet, corresponding to 1988, which were formulated by the general meeting of the people's congresses and people's committees—the General People's Congress—at its 15th ordinary session convened from 25th Rajab to 2 Sha'ban 1398 After the Death of the Prophet, corresponding to 2-9 March 1989; the resolutions of basic people's congress at their second ordinary session of 1400 After the Death of the Prophet, corresponding to 1990, which were formulated by the general meeting of the people's congresses, people's committee, trade unions, and professional leagues and associations—the General People's Congress—at its ordinary session convened from 29 Dhi al-Qi'dah to 5 Dhi al-Hijjah 1400 After the Death of the Prophet, corresponding to 11-17 June 1991; and after taking cognizance of the declaration of the establishment of people's authority and the great green document on human rights in the era of masses, international charters and conventions on human rights and basic human freedom, law No. 9 of 1984 on the organization of people's congresses, and the resolutions of people's congresses and associations abroad, the following law was formulated:

Article 1: Citizens in the Great Jamahiriyah, male and female, are free people with equal rights, whose rights must not be infringed upon.

Article 2: Every citizen has the right to exercise authority and decide his destiny at people's congresses and people's committees, and he must not be deprived of their membership or from selection to their secretariats wherever the stipulated conditions for these are fulfilled.

Article 3: Defending the homeland is a right and an honor and no male or female citizen must be deprived of it.

Article 4: Life is a natural right of every human being; therefore, capital punishment must not be implemented except as a punishment, or on those whose lives constitute a threat or cause depravity to society. The perpetrator has the right to ask for the punishment to be reduced to many forms of redemption in exchange for saving his life. The court may accept, providing it is not harmful to society or contrary to human feelings.

Article 5: Religion is a direct relationship with the Creator, without an intermediary. It is prohibited to claim monopoly over religion or to exploit it for any purpose.

Article 6: The well-being of the body is the right of every human being, and it is prohibited to carry out scientific experiments on the body of a free human being except on a voluntary basis.

Article 7: Dealing with a foreign country that is hostile to society constitutes high treason.

Article 8: Every citizen has the right to express his opinions and ideas and to publicize them at people's

congresses and through jamahiri media. The citizen will not be questioned about exercising this right unless he exploits it to harm the people's authority or for personal objectives. Covert calls concerning ideas and opinions, attempts to publish them or impose them on others by inducement, force, terrorism or falsification are prohibited.

Article 9: Citizens are free to establish trade unions, professional and social associations and leagues, and charitable societies, and to join them to protect their interests or to realise the legitimate aims for which they have been established.

Article 10: Every citizen is free to choose the work that suits him individually or in participation with others, without exploiting the effort of others or causing moral or material harm to others.

Article 11: Every citizen has the right to enjoy the produce of his labor. It is not permissible to make any deductions from the produce of labor except by an amount stipulated by law as a contribution to public undertakings or an amount comparable to the services provided for him by society.

Article 12: Private ownership is sacred, and it may not be undermined if it has been acquired legitimately, without exploiting others or causing them moral or material harm. It may not be deployed in a way that violates public order and morals. It is not permissible to expropriate private property except for the public interest and in return for equitable compensation.

Article 13: Every citizen has the right to benefit from land throughout his life and the lives of his heirs through labor, agriculture, grazing to fulfil his needs within the limitations of his efforts without exploiting others. It is not permissible to deprive him from this right unless he caused the spoiling of the land or misused it.

Article 14: It is not permissible to take away or restrict the freedom of, search or interrogate any person, unless being accused of an action punishable by law, on the order of a competent judicial body and in the circumstances and periods stated by the law. Protective custody has to be in a known place, about which the accused's family must be notified, for the shortest time required for investigation and the upholding of evidence.

Article 15: The privacy of correspondence is guaranteed. It is not permissible to censor correspondence, except in restricted cases necessitated by the requirement of the security of society and after obtaining permission from a judicial body.

Article 16: Private life is inviolable and interference is prohibited unless it constitutes a threat to public order and moral, harm to others, or if a party to it complains.

Article 17: The accused is innocent until he is found guilty by a judicial ruling. Furthermore, it would be permissible to undertake legal proceedings against him for as long as he is under a charge. It is forbidden to subject the accused to any form of physical or psychological torture, treat him in a cruel or humiliating way, or (in a way that) undermines human dignity.

Article 18: Punishment aims at reforming, (?strengthening), building up, training, educating, disciplining and [word indistinct].

Article 19: Dwellings are sacrosanct and they must not be entered, watched or searched unless they are used for the covering of a crime, harboring criminals, or harming others morally or materially, or if they are used for purposes that are incompatible with society's morals and traditions in an obvious way. Excluding cases of flagrante delicto and appeal for help, it is impermissible to enter houses except with permission from a legally authorised body.

Article 20: During peace time, every citizen has the right of movement and to choose the place of his abode, and has the right to leave the Great Jamahiriyah and to return to it whenever he wishes. As an exception to the ruling of the previous paragraph, it is admissible for a competent court to issue temporary ban orders on leaving the Great Jamahiriyah.

Article 21: The Great Jamahiriyah is a refuge for the oppressed and strugglers for freedom. It is impermissible to hand over refugees under its protection to any side.

Article 22: The freedom of invention, innovation and creativity are guaranteed within the confines of public order and morals as long as they are not morally or materially harmful.

Article 23: Every citizen has a right to learning and knowledge, and to choose the knowledge that suits him. Monopoly over knowledge or falsifying it for any reason are forbidden.

Article 24: Every citizen has a right to social care and security. The Society is the guardian of those who have no guardians; it protects the needy, elderly and orphans, and secures the means of an honorable living for those who are unable to work for reasons outside their control.

Article 25: Every male and female citizen has a right to set up a family on the basis of a matrimonial contract based on both sides' consent. It cannot be dissolved without their consent or on the basis of a ruling by a competent court.

Article 26: Raising children is the right of a mother as long as she is qualified to do so. It is not permissible to deprive a mother of her children or deprive the children of their mother.

Article 27: A woman, who is raising children, has the right to stay in the conjugal home during the rearing period. A man has the right to keep his personal belongings and it is not permissible for his house, its contents or part of it to be taken in compensation for divorce or divorce at the instance of the wife or included in the estimates for the remainder of alimony.

Article 28: A woman has the right to the work which is suitable for her, and must not be placed in a situation which compels her to carry out work which is incompatible with her nature.

Article 29: It is prohibited to use children in the practice of jobs which are incompatible with their capabilities or which impede their natural growth or harm their morals or health, whether this is done by their relatives or others.

Article 30: Every person has the right to have recourse to justice in accordance with the law, and the court guarantees to him all the necessary warranties, including a solicitor. He has the right to be assisted by a solicitor which he chooses from outside the court whose payment will be at his charge.

Article 31: Judges are independent in their decisions and there is no authority above them apart from the law.

Article 32: It is not permissible for any public body to exceed its jurisdiction or interfere in matters with which it is not entrusted. It is not permissible for any party to interfere in matters of judicial control unless it is authorized to do so by the law.

Article 33: Public funds and public utilities are the property of the society and it is not permissible to use them in any form not specified for them by the people. Public service is a service for the society, and it is prohibited to exploit it and use the powers derived from it in order to achieve illegal aims.

Article 34: The rights contained in this law are not subjected to lapse of time or (?lessening), and it is not permissible to waiver them.

Article 35: The provisions of this law are fundamental, and it is not permissible to issue laws which are in contradiction with them, and all the legal regulations which contradict them be amended.

Article 36: Every person who illegally way to achieves his aims will lose his right to the benefits of this law.

Article 37: The acts prohibited by virtue of the provisions of this law will be punishable in accordance with the penalties provided for in the penal code and supplementary laws, as well as those which are promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Great Green Docuiment on Human Rights in the age of the masses.

Article 38: This law will be published in the official gazette and in the media.

[Signed] The General People's Congress

Issued on 22 Safar 1401 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 1 September 1991 A.D.

Sudan

Khalifah Comments on SPLA Leadership Issue

EA3108115091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the peace and foreign affairs department, said that since its inception the revolution has placed peace among its priorities and basic concerns. This was a statement in the 31 August edition of AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published immediately after the rebel movement leadership's announcement of the dismissal of John Garang, accusing him of running a dictatorship.

Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said what has happened inside the rebel movement is a struggle for power, which we hope will lead to the end of the civil war which Sudan has endured since independence. He stated that it is not the right of the rebellion's leadership to speak on behalf of the sons of the south and intimate secession, noting that every call for secession is a rejected call. He affirmed that seeking a permanent peaceful solution would spare the country destruction. Col. Khalifah said that the government's program for peace included all issues, pointing out the need to sit down to earnest negotiations in which all controversial issues would be discussed so as to achieve a lasting and stable solution. He said that the government's program would strive for the achievement of peace in the country. He said that the initiative of the Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida, still stands since it is between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement.

It is worth pointing out that two members of the rebel movement, Riek Mashar and Lam Akol, had announced the ousting of the rebel leader, John Garang, accusing him of terrorism, executing dissidents in the movement, conscripting children into the ranks of his forces, and transforming the south into a kingdom of [word indistinct].

SPLA Crisis Analyzed

AB0109164091 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Sept 1 (AFP)—Sudanese rebel leader John Garang's political advisor said Sunday [1 September] that Colonel Garang was still in charge, dismissing a claim by three commanders to have taken over leadership of the movement.

Mansour Khalid, a former Sudanese foreign minister who is now Garang's political counsellor, told AFP that an announcement by three commanders of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) saying that they had taken over from Garang was false and motivated by "personal tensions."

He said peace talks between the rebels and the Khartoum government to end the eight-year civil war between the Arab north and African south would open "fairly soon."

"John Garang has sent a radio message to all leaders of the movement dismissing the falsely-reported takeover by commanders Lam Akol, Riek Mashar Teny-Dhurgon, and Gordon Koang Chol as stemming from blind ambition," said Khalid, who left Nairobi for Uganda on Sunday.

"John is now chairing a meeting of the movement's high command in southern Sudan," Khalid said. "Only two of the movement's 13 senior commanders are against him," he added, saying that the third dissident, Chol, was not a member of the high command.

Khalid's account tallied with an earlier statement by Garang's deputy, Captain Mario Muor, who said Garang still led the movement.

Diplomats in the region said the SPLA was divided over whether to declare independence in the south or to pursue Garang's policy of fighting for a united secular Sudan in which the mainly Christian and animist south would be free of Islamic domination by the north.

An advisor to the Sudanese military junta's political committee said Garang's reported overthrow could hasten an end to the war.

Angelo Beda was quoted by the Sudanese news agency SUNA, monitored here by the BBC, as saying that the "developments in the SPLA could lead to peace" as they seemed to indicate "a new tone in the language" of the rebels. Sudanese sources suggested that the Khartoum government had a hand in the challenge to Garang in a bid to split the SPLA, a theory dismissed by Khalid.

"The problem is more personal," he said, but added: "Khartoum will certainly try to exploit the situation now." [passage omitted]

This year the SPLA has claimed a string of military successes leaving it in control of much of the south except the besieged regional capital Juba.

Khalid said: "Khartoum tried to take advantage of what happened in Ethiopia to attack us, but did not manage to gain ground." Diplomats said the government had claimed no major military victories in the past few months.

Up to a quarter of a million lives have been lost in Sudan's bloody civil war, and many more have been displaced.

Some 400,000 Sudanese refugees fled back to the south from camps in Ethiopia after Addis Ababa's new government expelled the SPLA.

Garang in Good Health, Free

EA0109225691 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The French minister for humanitarian aid, Bernard Kouchner, has this evening said that Colonel John Garang is in good health and free. He said Garang was never arrested.

Kouchner, who had just arrived from the southern part of the Sudan, said he saw the Sudanese People's Liberation Army boss and held discussions with him in the small town of Kapoeta.

He also said he had discovered 10,000 male Sudanese children who were living on their own in a remote town of (Gurku). Kouchner said these boys had been sent back to the country from Ethiopia where they had been living as refugees. He said the children were aged between six and 14 and were forced to stay in a kind of captivity. [passage omitted]

Breakaway Commander Interviewed

AB0309131591 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 2 Sep 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] leader, John Garang, has been making something of a fight back since last Friday's [30 August] announcement by two senior rebel commanders that they had overthrown him. Over the weekend, Colonel Garang announced that he was firmly in charge and had the support of most of his senior officers. Whatever the outcome of this argument, it is something of a blow for the SPLA. Not only could the military campaigns against the Sudanese Government be affected, but it threatens the peace process began by the Nigerians that should be taking place in Abuja. The two rebel commanders dispute Garang's negotiating position of the need for one Sudan and may see a solution which could involve a breakaway state. Our correspondent, Collin Blane, met the two in Nasir in southern Sudan. He spoke to one of them, Commander Lam Akol, and he asked him whether their actions were not going to wreck the Abuja peace initiative.

[Begin recording] [Akol] Well, we have been hearing of this peace process over the media. We heard it even from John Garang himself speaking when he was interviewed by the BBC. We as members of the high command, up to this particular moment, know nothing about the OAU peace initiative, the American peace initiative, and so on, so it tells a lot about how serious Garang is on the so called peace process. It all goes to confirm that it was not a serious move by him, and he intentionally kept the members of the high command out of the process. And there has to be peace. We are the people who are commanding the army, and we must know so that we brief our soldiers, we brief our officers, and they tell us what to discuss in Abuja in Nigeria.

[Blane] If the people in Southern Sudan seem to be calling for anything, they seem to be calling for peace.

[Akol] Yes.

[Blane] Can you deliver that?

[Akol] We can deliver the peace because we know what our people want. The peace is a process which involves any person who is carrying a gun. Garang was actually in danger of going to sign a peace agreement which had no following on the ground but that is not [the] issue. The issue is that we are convinced that there is no peace that can be brought about by Garang because he is not interested in a peaceful settlement to the present conflict in Sudan; he has other interests.

[Blane] Do you think that setting aside the demand for unity will appeal to people in the south?

[Akol] We are not setting aside the demand for unity, and I think we should be understood very clearly. What we are saying, and what we have said is that we wanted the unity of the Sudan under a secular federal system. That is our ideal demand. But should obstacles be created by Khartoum in achieving this ideal objective, we think that, temporarily, there could be the option of having a separate part of the Sudan in order to bring about peace because we believe peace is the priority and if ever we have to [move] forward with all the underdevelopment we have, with all the underprivileged population we represent, there has to be peace so that international community, other people of goodwill can start building the infrastructure in our country. Sudan suffers a lot from the lack of infrastructure, this magnified by the fact that it is [a] large country. So we think peace is a priority, and if it means having a separate existence for some time until the two parts realize the importance of unity, we think that is the way forward. [end recording]

Western Sahara

King Hassan Informs UN of Polisario Moves

LD0409101191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Rabat, 4 Sep (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco yesterday sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he reaffirmed that elements from the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Rio de Oro and Saquia El Hamra] have been deployed since 2 September 1991 inside the international border of the Western Sahara in the Tifariti area. The message said that "aerial reconnaissance established that elements from the Polisario have been deployed since 2 September 1991 at a distance of about 10 kilometers inside the international border of the Sahara in the area of Tifariti—latitude and longitude 10 degrees 32 minutes and 26 degrees 04 minutes." The message also said that "Morocco, which assumes the responsibility of maintaining order and security within the internationally recognized border of this territory, can —proceeding from this point—carry out operations to maintain security and purge operations, too. However, Morocco refrains from doing that out of its concern that the cease-fire and subsequent stages of the peace plan should have all chances of success." The Moroccan monarch added in his message: "Morocco would be grateful to Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General for all the urgent measures that you may take so matters may return to normal, particularly through the withdrawal of these armed gangs to outside the territory."

Polisario Denies Accusation

LD0409204891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The diplomatic efforts in favor of the peace plan for Western Sahara are being intensified. Today, on the eve of the cease-fire under the aegis of the United Nations, King Hassan II accused the Polisario of having deployed 25 armored vehicles near the Saharan locality of Tifariti. The Moroccan king stresses that he will voluntarily abstain from intervening against the Polisario but asks that urgent measures be taken by Perez de Cuellar for the withdrawal of these armed troops. The Moroccan king goes as far as to threaten to intensify attacks against Western Sahara.

Mr. Brahim Hakim, the Polisario representative in Algiers, answers these statements for Hafida Hamouche.

[Begin Hakim recording] I formally and in the most categorical way deny the movement of Saharan troops in this region. This is entirely in contradiction with our logic because we have proclaimed a military truce. We did not proclaim the truce in order to carry out military movements. On the contrary, we proclaimed the truce for the purpose of creating an atmosphere [word indistinct] for the holding of a referendum in conformity with the peace plan. Thus it is not logical; it is false.

There has been no movement of Saharan troops, but there are Saharans living in this region. Morocco creates problems so these Saharans do not take part in the referendum. There [word undistinct] under the control of the Polisario's administation, and Morocco seeks to destroy this situation. Morocco simply wants to change this situation in order to impose its conditions. This is the reality. But it is false to say that there has been a movement of Saharan troops. Had we wanted to move our armored vehicles, we would have done so when Morocco attacked us on 4 August and during attacks thereafter. We abstained from retaliating.

We continue to maintain our self-control. We do not want to touch anything that would prevent the referendum from being held and the cease-fire from being implemented. But Morocco is looking for a pretext to return to military escalation in order to prevent the procalamation of a cease-fire or a cease-fire taking place in a situation in which Morocco would dictate its conditions. [end recording]

UN Observers To Begin Cease-Fire Monitoring

LD0409164291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Informed sources reported yesterday that the UN military and international observers will start their duties the day after tomorrow, the date of the official cease-fire between Morocco and the Saharan Polisario Front. In this respect, the UN secretary general handed over a telegram to the Security Council chairmanship in which he said that 240 of the 1700 observers will be in place in 10 regions for observation on 6 September.

Morocco and the Polisario accepted Perez de Cuellar's suggestion to fix the cease-fire date for 6 September [as] the first phase toward self-determination, which calls on the Saharans to choose between independence and connection with Morocco. The cease-fire is considered the starting point for the withdrawal of a part of the Moroccan forces from Saharan territories, and the stationing of the remaining forces, likewise the Polisario forces, under the supervision of the United Nations. It is expected that the prisoners and political detainees of both parties will be released.

The United Nations will start distributing voting papers to the Saharans. The point of difference at the moment is Morocco's objection to the list of voters which the United Nations prepared on the basis of the Spanish census in Western Sahara in 1974. Observers consider this census not to be in favor of Morocco, which in its turn submitted a list of 120,000 voters, claiming that they are Saharans. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Trade Letter of Understanding Signed With Iran

LD0409162991 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 4, IRNA—Iran and Bahrain on Tuesday signed a letter of understanding on trade development between the two countries anticipating mutual cooperation in industrial projects and exchange of consultants. The agreement was signed in Bahrain by Iran's Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals Ali Shams-Ardakani and Bahrain's Minister of Development and Industry Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi.

The document focuses primarily on cooperation in relation with aluminium, copper, steel, ornamental stones, raw materials, and oil and gas industries. It also stresses the need for mutual use of bank facilities, insurance and port facilities in Iran and Bahrain.

The signatories to the letter have recognized the need for entering into joint ventures for implementing new industrial projects in the Qeshm Island Free Trade Zone in the Persian Gulf in relation with aluminium, magnesium, plastics, rubber, as well as industries subsidiary to copper and aluminium.

The two countries have also agreed to coordinate their purchase of raw materials for their local industries including Bahrain's sale of raw products for Iran's iron and steel mills and Iran's sale of gas to that country.

The letter of understanding also anticipates Iran's export of foodstuffs and drinkable water to Bahrain and arrangement of professional exhibitions in both countries.

The Iranian and Bahraini consultants have also agreed on the formation, within one month, of a joint group of consultants to prepare the preliminaries for implementing the agreement.

Kuwait

Defense Cooperation Agreement With U.S. Adopted

LD0409155791 London KUNA in Arabic 1329 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Sep 1991, (KUNA)—Kuwait today adopted an agreement on defense cooperation with the United States. This took place during an emergency session of the Council of Ministers, which was chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. The articles of the above-mentioned agreement were discussed during the session.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs Dhari al-Uthman stated after the session that the agreement is for the maintenance of the country's security and safety and the preservation of its stability. It will also ensure the safety of its borders against the expansionist ambitions stemming from the continuous hostile intentions of the Iraqi regime vis-a-vis Kuwait and its people, which were manifested in the treacherous savage invasion of Kuwait. Minister al-Uthman added that the agreement is in appreciation of the brave stance taken by the fraternal and friendly states in supporting Kuwaiti rights and subsequently the liberation of Kuwait from the clutches of the sinful Iraqi occupation. The agreement was also reached out of the desire not to see a repetition of the bitter experience and the hard suffering which the Kuwaiti people endured. The agreement is the crown on the growing relations linking the State of Kuwait and the United States, and the latter's role in enabling Kuwait to regain its freedom and sovereignty.

Establishment of U.S. Bases Challenged

PM0409154291 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Sep 91 p1

['Abd al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Bubiyan's Glorious Battle"]

[Text] Condemnation of the Iraqi military landing on Kuwait's deserted Bubiyan Island continues throughout the world without verification of the facts and without even waiting for the report of the UN commission, which is thoroughly investigating to determine the complications and the facts.

Iraq denied the landing, while Kuwait confirmed it. The Kuwaiti media saw it as a battle in which the Kuwaiti forces fought heroically and scored a great victory against the invading forces, a victory unmatched even by Nelson's victory in the battle of Trafalgar. The UN observers, however, preferred to remain silent and to resist all temptation to comment. They did well. They must have oil in their mouths.

An Iraqi attack on Kuwait would not be a strange thing. There are precedents. The Iraqi forces did that before with no warning and they reached al-Bayan Palace in the heart of the capital before being expelled forcibly by the forces of the United States and 30 other states. What makes all this strange is that the Iraq of 2 August 1991 is not the Iraq of 2 August 1990. Iraq today is besieged, broken, in ruins, isolated, without any teeth or claws, and struggling to find food and medicine for its children. A reoccupation of Bubiyan could not possibly be an Iraqi top priority, particularly as Iraq knows that the United States and half the Arabs are just waiting for an opportunity to resume the destructive operations, which began with the savage air raids in mid-January.

That does not mean that Iraq abandoned its ambition to re-annex Kuwait—and not just Bubiyan. That, however, remains an ambition which some may consider legitimate while others may not.

To return to the landing story, which has not been confirmed by independent international sources, what

draws the attention is the timing and attempts to exaggerate it and to excessively plant terror in the hearts of the Kuwaitis who have cautiously begun to return to their country following unprecedented financial enticements.

The Kuwaiti Government is about to sign a security agreement with the United States that would legitimize and legalize the permanent presence of U.S. military forces in military bases on its territory. Exaggeration here would serve to persuade those who are still reluctant and still have some faith in sovereignty that the Americans are the security valve against any attack by neighboring Iraq.

We acknowledge that the government succeeded in planting the seeds of fear and in depriving the Damascus Declaration of its Arab character, helped in this by Iraq in some way or another, but the long-term risks of the presence of such U.S. bases for Kuwait and the United States itself are much greater than the risks in the absence of such bases.

Political and security developments in our Arab region have taught us that nothing stays the same. Today's enemies are yesterday's friends, and vice versa. The Kuwaitis should know this fact best, the evidence being that Iranian boats are moored on their shores without prior permission or visas.

Hosting U.S. bases may be easy at the beginning, but its continuation could be fraught with danger and could bring about endless problems. While the Kuwaitis, all Arabs, and the UN secretary general could discover that the Bubiyan landing operation was nothing but an adventure by warmongers in urgent pursuit of rapid wealth through the massing of arms and ammunition, they will wake up some day with a chronic headache as a result of these bases and their side effects. Manila and Bangkok are the best examples.

Implications of Bubiyan Island Landing Discussed

PM0509095491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 31 Aug 91 p 1

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "Reconciliation Could Produce a Truce But It Does Not Make Peace"]

[Text] The Bubiyan battle is a shining landmark in Kuwait's history since liberation and a glorious page in the records of its Armed Forces. It is full of military and political lessons, and it will not be the last.

Militarily, as everyone will testify, Kuwait alone was the first to discover the treacherous landing attempt on Bubiyan Island. This was done with helicopters from its own Air Force. Our Armed Forces, as everyone will testify, alone confronted, contained, and destroyed the aggression and seized what was left of its military pockets on the island.

The political authorities in Kuwait made the confrontation decision and our Armed Forces proved in the field that they were capable of carrying out that decision effectively, bravely, quickly, and decisively.

Politically, we people of Kuwait, the Gulf, and the peninsula did not need the aggression on Bubiyan to confirm to us that the Baghdad regime is still continuing the war that it launched against us on 2 August last year. Some Arabs, however, needed that confirmation. They believed that slogans such as Arab reunion and reconciliation and restoration of Arab solidarity were easy solutions to the problems of the Arab world, but Saddam has again confirmed to them that "military adventure" is still his ideal solution.

We in Kuwait, the Gulf, and the Peninsula have said, and still say, that the Baghdad regime is continuing its war against us, but with new methods. It still holds our people hostage, it still procrastinates on the question of border demarcation, it still has not paid compensation, and its media campaign against us has not stopped and if anything has become even more vulgar.

Furthermore, the Baghdad regime's allies, who are loudly calling for reunion to meet the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation (?), have not for one moment abandoned their alliance with the aggressor and have not once raised their voices and identified these "threats" to the Arab nation. They know them as well as we do, if not better. They are threats emanating from Baghdad and the Iraqi regime and they spare no Arab brother or Muslim neighbor. The Jordanian "black book" is the best evidence and example of this. While trying to justify the position adopted by the Jordanian regime in support of the aggression and in whitewashing the black record of the occupation of Kuwait, it also continues to accuse the Arab brothers who supported Kuwait's rights and cause of being "enemies" of Arab solidarity. In twisted terms, not lacking in their daring if not insolent nature, it regrets the loss of the opportunity for King Husayn's efforts to "Arabize" the solution.

The crime of Kuwait's occupation still continues, and while Kuwait and the Iraqi people are the ones who paid a high price for it, no Arab country or compatriot has escaped its repercussions. As long as Saddam Husayn is in power, as long as Kuwaiti and Arab prisoners are "missing" in his dungeons, as long as the Baghdad regime continues to dither on the demarcation of its borders with Kuwait, as long as Baghdad and its followers continue their campaign against us, and as long as aggression continues to be the predominant characteristic of Iraq, its regime, and its policies, there is no point in calling for Arab "reconciliation," because such a reconciliation could, at best, produce a truce but it certainly will not make peace.

The Bubiyan battle will not be the last until some Arabs understand that the fixed principles governing our position, our political leadership, Armed Forces, and steadfast people are capable of deterring aggression.

Foreign Minister Sends Letter to UN Chief

JN0509074391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The United Nations, 5 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn described Resolution 707, issued by the Security Council last month, as an unjustified resolution. It is the product of the intention and will of a number of influential council members, whose objective is to do damage to Iraq.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said that the resolution, as is the case with numerous other Security Council resolutions, was issued to create additional justifications not to implement the special clauses of Security Council resolutions that Iraq might use to get the unjust economic siege imposed on it lifted or eased.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn explained in his message that Iraq fulfilled all its commitments in accordance with Resolution 687 and the demands made by the inspection teams in general, particularly those in the nuclear field.

He said Iraq has fulfilled these commitments by revealing all aspects of its nuclear program in letters to the UN secretary general and in letters exchanged between the head of the Iraqi team and the heads of the inspection teams that visited Iraq. In addition, there have been rounds of talks to answer all queries and also direct meetings with officials and researchers in the nuclear program.

He declared that all of this indicates the full cooperation of specialized Iraqi agencies.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, Mr. Ahmad Husayn repeated the same question Iraq asked the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] many times: What is Iraq expected to do now, after all the measures it has taken and the information it has provided, to be considered as fulfilling all its commitments in accordance with the resolution?

He declared that Iraq fully, conclusively, and completely revealed all aspects of its programs requested by Resolution 687. There are no other programs of this kind.

He added that the inspection teams' latest reports pointed out the extent of Iraq's cooperation, and wondered what location it was any of the teams were not allowed to enter and inspect.

The foreign minister explained that an agreement was reached with the head of the fourth inspection team, which visited Iraq between 27 July and 10 August, to continue moving and collecting the materials and equipment the team inspected to the collection points the two sides agreed upon to facilitate the mission of future inspections.

He stated once again Iraq's great concern to guarantee the safety of the inspection teams' planes, crews, and passengers. He noted that to do so, there should be agreement and coordination with the specialized Iraqi sides to guarantee the safety and security of all.

He pointed out that all the requirements for privileges, immunities, facility of movement, and medical care for the inspection teams are available to them fully and to the best abilities Iraq has at its disposal, given the economic siege. He said that inspection teams' recent reports attest to this.

He declared once again Iraq's full commitment to its international pledges, including the treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons and the agreement on guarantees with the IAEA.

He added that Resolution 707 deliberately ignores Iraq's rights in Resolution 687. Following is the text of the foreign minister's letter:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to refer to Security Council Resolution 707 of 1991. The Government of Iraq views this resolution as unjustifiable and believes it was adopted, the same as many Security Council resolutions, out of the desire of a number of influential members of the Security Council to fabricate additional pretexts for not applying the provisions in Security Council resolutions from which Iraq could benefit to get the unjust economic siege imposed on it lifted or alleviated.

Iraq fulfilled all its commitments in accordance with Resolution 687 and as demanded by the inspection teams in general and the inspection team in the nuclear field in particular, by declaring all aspects of the Iraqi nuclear program. This was done through the letters sent to your excellency or those exchanged between heads of the Iraqi team and the inspection teams that visited Iraq, as well as through the sessions conducted to answer all inquiries and the direct meetings with the officials in charge of the nuclear program and the researchers. This indicates full cooperation from the concerned Iraqi quarters.

For more accuracy, we would like to clarify our view toward the operative paragraphs in the pertinent council resolution as follows:

1. Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 twice condemning Iraq in the same resolution. Iraq abided by all its commitments in accordance with Resolution 687 of 1991 and adhered to the guarantees agreement with the IAEA by fully declaring all aspects of the Iraqi nuclear program and adopting the measures to correct the course in implementation of the resolution taken by the IAEA Board of Governors on 18 July 1991. We would like to repeat the question which we have directed to the IAEA on more than one occasion about what is required from us now [word indistinct] all the measures we have taken and all information we have provided so that Iraq may meet all its commitments in accordance with the resolution.

2. Iraq completely and definitively revealed all aspects of its programs as requested in Resolution 687 of 1991 and which were stipulated for in operative paragraph 2/1; there are no programs of that type whatsoever that Iraq failed to declare.

3. Since 28 June 1991, the inspection teams have not reported any obstruction to their access to all the areas, installations, records, equipment, and transportation means they wished to inspect as cited in operative paragraph 3/2. In this regard, we would like to refer to the recent inspection teams' reports, including the third nuclear inspection team's report issued on 2 August 1991 as IAEA document No. 621/INF, which shows Iraq's full cooperation.

We would like to ask: Which site was any team not allowed to enter and inspect?

4. Regarding operative paragraph 3/3, the Iraqi Government decided to stop transporting or destroying any materials or equipment cited in Security Council Resolution 687/1991 since 28 June 1991. Following the arrival of the third nuclear inspection team, the head of the team agreed with the Iraqi side to transfer some equipment that had been inspected by the UN team to a suitable location facilitating the inspection teams' future surveillance and inspection. Some of these measures were taken under the supervision of members of the third team and they were verified by the fourth team. Agreement was also reached with the head of the fourth team to continue to transfer the materials and equipment inspected by the team to the assembly sites agreed by the two sides for the purpose of facilitating future inspection.

5. Operative paragraph ¾ referred to the implications of a subject that became part of the past even before the arrival of the third nuclear inspection team in the first week of July 1991 because the third team had inspected all materials and, together with the Iraqi side, transferred them to the agreed locations. Therefore, we would like to ask: Which materials the inspection teams were earlier banned from reaching remain inaccessible to them? We would be very grateful to you if you could inform us of such materials as indicated in operative paragraph 3/4. If no such materials exist, we wonder what the reason is for including this paragraph in Resolution 707/1991.

6. Iraq previously expressed its view that in principle it does not object to overflights with respect to operative paragraph 3/5. However, what Iraq would like to clarify in this respect is that there are some issues connected to control, communications, and logistics that should be taken into consideration to safeguard the safety of the planes, their crews, and those on board. Iraq is extremely concerned about this and hopes that the matter will be taken up with the agreement of and in coordination with the pertinent Iraqi authorities so that the safety of all can be secured.

7. Concerning the termination of all types of nuclear activities as mentioned in operative paragraph 3/6: Although this matter goes beyond the measures mentioned in Resolution 687 of 1990 [as received], from the scientific and practical point of view there has not been any nuclear activity in its most simple form following the comprehensive destruction of Iraqi nuclear positions such as reactors, laboratories, equipment, and others. This has also been mentioned in the report of the IAEA director general.

I would like to mention that all the requirements of the privileges, immunities, and transportation facilities at the disposal of the inspection teams, not to mention medical care as stipulated in operative paragraphs 3/7 and 3/8, have all been provided to them within the best conditions available given the economic siege imposed on Iraq. The reports submitted by the inspection teams attest to this.

8. With respect to operative paragraph 5: Iraq reiterates that it is fully abiding by its international commitments, including the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the guarantees agreement with the IAEA.

The clauses and paragraphs of Resolution 707 of 1991 are based on Resolution 687 of 1991. However, Resolution 707 intentionally ignores Iraq's rights as mentioned in Resolution 687 of 1991. In this respect, we would like to inquire what Iraq must do to demonstrate further good intention to show that it complies with the UN Security Council. We would also like to ask until when will the UN Security Council continue to ignore Iraq's rights as spipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions and when will the unjust economic siege imposed on its people be lifted?

Please accept my greatest respect.

Opposition Claims Attack on Saddam Motorcade

NC0409163091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1405 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Help from God and a speedy victory. [Koranic verse] Our triumphant popular forces continue their militant operations against the dens of the cruel Ba'thist regime, its officials, and its hirelings. The operations produced the following results:

1. Our heroic strugglers attacked the motorcade of criminal Saddam after his return from his recent visit to the holy Governorate of Karbala'. They killed the governorate's security director and an 'Aflaqist [reference to Michel 'Aflaq, one of the founders of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party] intelligence officer with the rank of colonel. They also severely wounded the military governor.

2. A group of our revolutionaries in the holy Governorate of al-Najaf assassinated a number of Ba'thist mercenaries in an area called the 1920 revolution. The revolutionaries opened fire from inside their car at the enemies, killing several Ba'thist mercenaries and wounding others.

3. A just punishment was meted out against four soldiers in Hayy al-Amir in the Governorate of the holy al-Najaf. These soldiers were proven guilty of hunting down our revolutionaries and of committing criminal acts against the popular uprising.

Congratulations to our heroic strugglers and to our Muslim nation until victory is achieved, God willing.

President Saddam Husayn Chairs Several Meetings

Presides at Leadership Meeting 5 Sep

JN0509145491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting that was attended by Revolution Command Council members, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The meeting was also attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil.

Chairs Joint RCC, Party Command Meeting

JN0409165591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1643 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to discuss the political situation.

Chairs Branch Secretaries Session

JN0409175191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1734 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, chaired a meeting here today of the secretaries to the party branches.

Foreign Ministry: Iran To Return War Dead

JN0509071791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'ad 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal reports that Iraq and Iran agreed to continue bilateral meetings through the exchange of visits with the objective of reaching results serving the interests of the two people.

In an interview with the weekly magazine ALIF BA' published here today, he said that prisoners of war and the building of bridges of understanding and progress are at the top of the basic issues under discussion with Iran.

He explained that his talks with officials in Iran are a step forward in improving relations and an opportunity to exchange opinions on various issues of mutual interest.

He noted that he discussed continuing contacts to reach some common understanding on all issues pending between the two countries, following their halt as a result of the 30-nation aggression on Iraq and the riots.

Al-Faysal revealed that Iraq and Iran had agreed to exchange the bodies of Iraqi martyrs for Iranian ones and to form a committee to discuss the missing.

The under secretary described his visit to Tehran as having been [word indistinct] and good because it stemmed from relations of good neighborliness and the desire to establish a just and permanent peace between the two countries.

Cabinet Discusses Production, Employment Funds

JN0509062091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers today held an ordinary session and discussed the exploitation of production capacities at factories and industrial installations to provide the requirements for production and consumer goods in cooperation with the private sector.

The session was chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi and attended by Deputy Prime Ministers Tariq 'Aziz and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. The Council of Ministers discussed items on the agenda and made the necessary decisions. Among the items were the issuance of directives to make it voluntary for unions and federations to join the social security and pension funds and to allow these funds to take in donations, contributions, and inheritances.

Intelligence Agency Said To Set Up Own Forces

PM0409111591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Aug 91 p1

[Unattributed report: "Do you Know?"]

[Text] Do you know that the Iraqi intelligence organs have formed armed units called "emergency squads" to confront internal opposition? These squads replace the popular army which was dissolved after last March's mutiny within its ranks. The formation of these squads came after reports of near collapse of the security situation in Baghdad.

Leaders React to U.S. Stand on Loan Guarantees

Shamir on Aid, Baltics, Budget

TA0509055891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has confirmed that Israel is aware of the fact that the United States would like it to postpone the presentation of its request for loan guarantees until after the peace conference has convened; however, Mr. Shamir has not received any special notice to this effect. As for Israel's recognition of the Baltic states, it emerges from the prime minister's remarks that there is as yet no decision if and when ambassadors will be sent there. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz spoke to Yitzhaq Shamir at the end of a rally held last night to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the pre- state Stern group.

[Begin recording] [Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, we have heard reports from the United States that there is a connection between the granting of loan guarantees and Israel's attending the peace conference. Do you know anything about it?

[Shamir] No, I have received no special notice about it, but there has been a lot of talk on the subject; this is known.

[Raz] What were the considerations behind the Israeli Government's decision to recognize the Baltic states?

[Shamir] Well, I do not think there was any reason not to recognize them, considering that these states were independent until the Soviet Union occupied them. Now that the Soviet Union has become disjointed as a union and has released them from its yoke, these states have definitely regained their independence, and there is no reason not to recognize this fact.

[Raz] Will this recognition be full and include an exchange of ambassadors?

[Shamir] For the time being, it is just recognition. As for representatives, we will see how to go about settling the matter. [end recording]

Later the prime minister told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the state budget approved by the government was the best result that could have been attained.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Optimal results are hard to come by, in view of the hard tasks we are faced with, and it is sometimes difficult to decide on priorities. We have two top priorities: security and immigrant absorption. Both have their demands, which must be met; hence the difficulties we had to tackle. I think the result was the best that could be attained.

[Raz] Ministers have fiercely criticized the finance minister.

[Shamir] Ministers raised all sorts of objections, each in his own field. It was hard to please all of them, and that is why they voiced their objections. Actually, one may say that everybody accepted the principles on which the budget was based. [end recording]

Request for Guarantees Due 7 Sep

TA0509115691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today that Israel's request for loan guarantees from the U.S. Administration will be presented on Saturday [7 September] to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Shamir said he categorically rejects any linkage between these guarantees and the peace conference. We have not been asked to postpone the presentation of the request, Shamir said, and nobody in the United States objects to it.

Yitzhaq Shamir was today the guest of the villages of Khirbat Shibli and Kafr Kama in the Lower Galilee. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Why do you obstinately insist on presenting the request for guarantees to the U.S. Administration despite Baker's opposition, a U.S. journalist asked the prime minister. We are not being obstinate, the prime minister replied; we simply need the money. Immigrants keep coming to Israel every day, and the request for guarantees is an opportunity to receive considerable aid without taxing the U.S. budget. Indeed, over the past few days I had several phone conversations with the secretary of state, the prime minister disclosed, which were serious talks between friends.

[Shamir] I never said I had rejected Baker's request to postpone the presentation of the request. Moreover, there is no question of any rejection. Nobody in the United States objects to Israel's presenting the request for loan guarantees. Indeed, we will be presenting the request, and the secretary of state will receive it on Saturday. It will be discussed by the U.S. Administration and Congress.

[Hecht] Linkage between the guarantees and the political process is no longer a possibility or something to be feared. Since last night it is an explicit statement made by the U.S. secretary of state.

[Shamir] We object to any such linkage. We do not think it has any justification whatsoever. The U.S. Administration, too, says there is no linkage. Yesterday the secretary of state said that in his opinion, there is an effect. Well, one can say anything may have an effect on anything. There is no linkage, however—nor should there be—between the two issues for the simple reason that U.S. aid to absorb immigration is a humanitarian enterprise of the highest order and should not be affected by or hinge on any political conditions.

[Hecht] The prime minister was asked whether he would order a pause, albeit temporary, in settlement to appease President Bush in anticipation of the peace process.

[Shamir] I have never given this issue any thought, because I do not see settlement as violating order, justice, and rights in any way. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 4 September in a related report adds: "Prime Minister Shamir says the preparations for the opening of a peace process in the Middle East are near to completion. Very soon it will be possible to convene a regional conference in which, for the first time, Israel would discuss with all her neighbors a comprehensive peace. Shamir told a reception in the Bedouin village of Khirbat Shibli that it's obvious the process would not be easy, but there was a special importance to starting it."]

Finance Minister on Loan Guarantees

TA0409212891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Yoram Ronen and economic correspondents 'Oded Shahar and Hayim Platner on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] [passage omitted] Recent reports from Washington indicate that the United States will not grant us $10 billion worth of guarantees for loans for immigrant absorption before the peace conference starts. It was reported earlier that there will be no U.S. guarantees without an explicit Israeli commitment to freeze the settlements. Are you worried by these reports?

[Moda'i] Some of the reports are not true. I am not worried about reports that I personally know to be untrue, but there is no doubt that I am very worried about rumors regarding a possible linkage concerning our economic requests. By the way, these requests are not economic but humanitarian. As a matter of fact, the world must care for the absorption of refugees from the USSR. It seems to me that the refugees coming out of the USSR will not all be Jews; there could be others. I do not deny the fact that the State of Israel gains certain benefits from this, but small Israel has primarily undertaken an incredible humanitarian burden, with unprecedented levels of expenses.

So, let me tell you: There is no formal U.S. commitment, but it certainly has a moral commitment to aid us. Let me straighten this out for the public, once and for all: We are not asking for grants or loans; we are asking for guarantees, which, based on our past performance [last two words in English] are almost risk-free. We have never skipped a payment before.

[Ronen] President Bush, however, said that we will get the guarantees only after the peace process starts.

[Moda'i] Did President Bush tell you that?

[Ronen] He did not tell me, but....

[Moda'i, interrupting] Than I must tell you that at this moment we have no authorized report saying this. It is true that there has been some request asking that we postpone the presentation of our request. This has been settled, and our request will be filed within the next day or two. Only the Americans know how it will be treated, the administration's stand will be, or whether it will want to link it with relevant or irrelevant issues.

[Shahar] Why not kill two birds with one stone, and I am quoting Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres: Cut 3 billion shekels from the settlement budget, thus saving budget money and satisfying the Americans?

[Moda'i] I want to tell Shim'on Peres, the head of the opposition, that he should know figures better, because he used to be a finance minister. There is no investment of 3 billion shekels in settlements in the territories; that never happened before, and it is not happening now. Those are just words.

[Ronen] He is referring to the total budget for the territories.

[Moda'i] Not even that. That is not even close to the actual sums.

[Shahar] Including benefits, grants, construction, infrastructure, and everything else?

[Moda'i] Everything put together—all the blessings and the benefits. Do you know what 3 billion shekels means in terms of absorption funds? The total immigrant absorption budget is less than 20 billion shekels. Do you find it logical that 3 billion of that should be allocated for areas that hardly absorb immigration?

[Shahar] We are not talking of immigrant absorption. We mean the total investments in existing settlements.

[Moda'i] Excuse me. There is no additional budget beyond the routine prevailing since 1967 in the budget for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I stand behind the figures. No special benefits are given—not through the Jewish ministries, nor through the special ministries, meaning funds for housing and developments.

[Platner] Does not the cut in the Construction and Housing Ministry budget affect the funds for construction in the settlements in the territories?

[Moda'i] Relatively, yes—just as it affects it elsewhere. [passage omitted]

[Platner] Is there a possibility that we will not get those U.S. guarantees? What is the alternative? Do you have some contingency plans in such a case?

[Moda'i] I do not even want to think—and I have no reason to believe—that we will not get the guarantees. This is not much to ask, from the U.S. point of view, primarily because the risk is not great. At the same time, anything can happen. There is no formal U.S. commitment. If we do not get them, I am certain it would make

our situation much worse, not only in terms of the budget deficit, but in terms of our ability to finance the whole budget. This should provide for some 15 percent of the special, additional budget, which is a great chunk of the budget. The rest will have to come from sources within Israel and from other foreign sources. That is why it will undoubtedly make things worse for us. I am doing everything I can to avoid tightening Israeli citizens' belts more than necessary and certainly not through additional taxes. I am very hopeful. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Baker Remarks

TA0509065091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] You are versed in diplomatic language. When Secretary Baker says there is no linkage, but rather a relationship, between Israel's request for loan guarantees and the peace process, what does he actually mean?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to comment on the secretary of state's remarks because I would like to read the full text first, but I can tell you our position. First of all, we think the two issues should be separated. Aliyah is an internal Israeli affair; the right to emigrate is a universal humanitarian issue. Indeed, all the civilized countries in the community of nations—with the United States heading the list—supported the humanitarian endeavor to break open the Soviet Union's gates to emigration without any political conditions. This had to be done to give Jews the freedom to travel and return to their homeland. The question of their absorption in Israel is intrinsically connected to the effort to break open the Soviet Union's gates to emigration. Just as there were no political conditions to get the Jews out, nobody should come now and say that they will put up obstacles; that if Israel does not do this, they will not allow the absorption of immigrants. The United States definitely does not condone such an approach and we do not connect the two issues either.

[Einstein] Do you think James Baker's comments contain some hint of possible pressure on Israel if problems crop up at the last minute concerning the various agreements that have to be attained by the time the peace conference convenes?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope not, primarily because, as is known, Israel is not swayed by such attempts and because pressuring Israel on the eve of negotiations will have totally counterproductive results. It will raise Arab expectations to unrealistic heights and will stiffen their positions, which will make the attainment of agreements harder rather than easier.

[Einstein] Israel's purpose actually is to have Congress approve the request for loan guarantees. Perhaps now is not the most convenient time for Israel and there are grounds to heed the U.S. request to put off the presentation of the request.

[Netanyahu] First of all, I am not confirming that there has been such a U.S. request.

[Einstein] Well, if such a request is made.

[Netanyahu] One must bear in mind one thing: The immigrants are unaware of all this and they keep coming. They are coming and, I think, will continue to come in larger numbers because of the problems in the Soviet Union. Our hope that the situation there will stabilize and improve economically notwithstanding, the prospects do not look particularly encouraging at the moment. The same applies to the surge of anti-Semitism and the acute ethnic problems which are a consequence of the collapse of the Soviet empire. Therefore, the Jews are leaving. Although they are not formally described as refugees when they come here, everybody knows that they are escaping a possible hell in the Soviet Union. Hence, absorbing these people is a humanitarian question.

Of course, we waited for the U.S. Congress to reconvene in September to present our request for guarantees. I emphasize: guarantees—not money, grants, or even loans, but guarantees for loans. Israel's efforts to absorb immigrants must exploit all resources, including this one.

Officials—No Concessions Whatsoever

TA0509070391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have stressed that compliance with the U.S. request to postpone the presentation of the request for loan guarantees would be tantamount to Israeli recognition of the linkage between the guarantees and the political process. Officials in the prime minister's bureau noted yesterday that Israel has no intention of agreeing to place a moratorium on settlement in exchange for loan guarantees. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

It had been clear to Jerusalem that some kind of linkage would be established between granting the request for housing loan guarantees and progress on the political process, but it is doubtful that anybody thought that the linkage would be so clear and blatant. Political sources in Jerusalem stressed that Baker's demand to postpone the presentation of the request for guarantees cannot be met, because such a move would be interpreted as Israeli recognition of the linkage between the guarantees and the political process.

Israel is now girding its loins for a lengthy and tiring struggle on the question of the guarantees. The issue will be discussed in Baker's talks in Israel next week and was discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and Ambassador Brown yesterday.

Officials in the prime minister's bureau say Israel will not agree to make any concessions whatsoever—neither in the political sphere nor on the question of placing a moratorium on settlement—in exchange for the guarantees.

Hence, the situation at the moment with regard to the guarantees is as follows: The Americans have announced in the clearest terms possible that a linkage exists between granting the guarantees and making progress on the peace process. Israel has rejected this linkage and the call to postpone the presentation of the request. Ambassador Shoval will now present the request for loan guarantees, and the United States will think about it, and think about it, and then think again until progress has been made in the political process.

Independence of Baltic States Recognized

TA0409151591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Israel recognizes the independence of the Baltic states, Foreign Minister David Levi announced a short time ago. Initial details come from our political correspondent Natan Gutman, who is telephoning from the Foreign Ministry:

Foreign Minister David Levi made the following announcement a few minutes ago:

In the face of requests by the governments of the Baltic republics calling for recognition of their independence, the prime minister and I decided, in consultations today, to inform them officially that the Israeli Government recognizes the independence of the Baltic republics.

Foreign Minister Levi added that since those states have gone a long way and have reached independence, he hopes that with time we will also be able to form diplomatic relations with them.

Soviet Consul General Cited on Relations

TA0409121491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] In keeping with tradition, President Hayim Herzog today held the annual Rosh Hashanah reception for the diplomatic corps. The only difference was the unprecedented number of diplomats attending the ceremony, some of them envoys from countries that have recently renewed relations with Israel. There was talk about the establishment of ties with the Baltic states. Among those present at the reception was the Soviet consul general. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem was also there, and she has this to report:

[Begin recording] [Amsalem] Several new envoys arrived at today's reception: the new—and first—ambassador of Bulgaria; the envoy of Portugal, who has just become resident ambassador; and two nonresident ambassadors—those of Jamaica and New Zealand, who made a special effort to attend the ceremony.

The most prominent among the new envoys, however, was USSR Consul General Aleksey Chistyakov. Although the senior Soviet representative did not mention a date for the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, he agreed to reiterate that there is readiness to do so.

[Chistyakov, in English] For a long time, we took the position that we are ready for the restoration of full diplomatic relations with Israel along with the peace process.

[Amsalem translates and continues] By the way, said Chistyakov, I can say that the relations have expanded and are making speedy progress in every sphere. My presence here proves we have no difficulties in maintaining ties with Israel.

Regarding the possibility of receiving three new ambassadors from the Baltic states, the Soviet consul said that the Soviet Union is currently discussing the status of the Baltic states.

[Reporting on President Herzog's reception, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 4 September adds that "Foreign Minister Levi today conveyed a message to the new Soviet foreign minister saying he would like to establish contact at once."]

Unlike the new envoys, U.S. Ambassador William Brown today attended this ceremony for the last time as ambassador. [end recording]

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 4 Sep

TA0409142791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived this afternoon and was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Foreign Minister David Levi. De Michelis will confer with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today. Minister Levi told our correspondent Dan Eshel that de Michelis is a friend of Israel and Jerusalem expects him to support Israeli interests in the unification of Europe in 1992.

Links EC Status With Peace Progress

TA0409174291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said this evening that his country's efforts to grant Israel special economic status in the EC are linked with progress in the peace process. Italy is willing to extend any help the parties may want to advance the political process in the Middle East.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that de Michelis made those remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Mr. Shamir expressed his deep

appreciation for the Italian foreign minister's part in promoting the idea of granting Israel special economic status in the EC.

Urges Recognizing Palestinian Rights

TA0409204091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said this evening that Israel should recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and, at the same time, the Arabs should recognize Israel's right to exist. De Michelis made those remarks in Jerusalem this evening after meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

Gianni de Michelis, a man of influence in European politics, is considered a friend of Israel. He often meets his Israeli counterpart. The Italian foreign minister is constantly pressing for the incorporation of Israel in the EC, although he made it clear today that only progress toward peace will allow Israel become a full partner in the EC, as it desires.

De Michelis, who has done much to convince his European counterparts to accept Israel's opening position on the peace process, said again: There is an opportunity for peace; let us not waste it. [passage omitted]

Among the other things he said tonight, de Michelis said that Israel should place more trust in the United Nations and that Italy will aid in repealing the UN resolution that equates Zionism with racism.

Meets With Palestinians

TA0509100691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The meeting between Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and a Palestinian delegation has just ended in Jerusalem. Emerging from the session, Faysal al-Husayni said that agreement had been reached with de Michelis concerning the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the UN role in the political process, and the Palestinians' right to choose their delegates to the peace conference.

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the Italian foreign minister asserted that the main importance lies in the very opening of negotiations and that the Palestinians should not present preconditions for launching the talks. The Italian foreign minister came out in favor of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, while his Palestinian interlocutors told him they were awaiting the replies of the U.S. secretary of state, who, as is known, is due in Israel next weekend.

Romania's Iliescu Comments on Cooperation

TA0409125591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Italicized passages recorded in English]

[Excerpts] Romanian President Ion Iliescu is touring northern Israel today. The president has visited the industrial complex in Tefen Bloc and at this hour is touring Nazareth, where numerous Romanian-born Israelis reside. Our correspondent Nati Silberman reports from Nazareth:

[passage omitted] A short while ago, the president toured a chocolate factory in Nazareth, after which he declared that there is definitely room for discussing industrial cooperation:

[Iliescu] *And even here, in this Nazareth fabric [factory] of chocolate, we are sure we can find some possibilities to extend our cooperation. We have three such fabrics in Romania, and we could find solutions to make some arrangements in this direction.*

The issue of anti-Semitism was not absent from the visit. This phenomenon, said the Romanian president, is something I am unable to understand.

[Iliescu] *It's a political aspect of the relations in our country, and the anti-Semitism as a phenomenon, it is a marginal phenomenon for Romania. But, such extremistic expressions are always done in some critical moments, and we are passing to such a critical moment of our economy, of our social life, of our political life.* [passage omitted]

On Compensation for Property

TA0409184391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu says his country's parliament will establish a commission that will weigh the possibility of compensating Jews whose property was confiscated during the communist rule in Romania. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, President Iliescu said the problem was a broad one that went beyond just the issue of the Jews. He was speaking during a reception given by the secretary general of the Histadrut, Yisra'el Qeysar.

Before his meeting with Qeysar, President Iliescu was in the Galilee. Summing up his visit there is reporter Sylvia Leif:

In Upper Nazareth, where most of the population is originally from Romania, President Iliescu was greeted today with music and loud cheering, but the main question on most minds was the productivity of his visit and whether the two countries can work together on financial ventures.

[Begin Iliescu recording] Yes, I am sure. I not only hope but I am sure of this, and it is one of the aims of our visit because first of all it is a political visit. Its significance I have underlined already. This is the first visit of a head of state, but in the same time it is a practical visit. We have a lot of people which is working in the economy and industry, and it is very interesting to make some concrete

arrangement concerning the cooperation, the development of our relations in this field and the different joint ventures. [end recording]

Earlier this morning the president visited the Tefen region's industrial park and the Iskar cutting tool factory, where he held productive discussions with the owner Stef Wertheimer.

Arens Orders Reopening of Islamic University

TA0409154191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has issued an order to reopen the Islamic University in Gaza, which has been closed since the start of the intifadah. This afternoon, Minister Arens met with the heads of the university and explained to them that the reopening of the university is part of the defense establishment's policy of restoring the education system in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and getting it back on track.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the defense minister believes that the process will succeed if the universities engage in academic activities only and do not serve as a source of violence and riots. So far, all the universities in the territories have been opened, with the exception of Bi'r Zayt University.

Soviet Immigrants Slated for Golan Settlements

TA0409130491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Sep 91 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Twenty-four new immigrant families from the Soviet Union are about to move to the Qela'-Golan settlement on the Golan Heights, which is currently manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers. This settlement will therefore probably be civilianized within the next few weeks. The intent is to civilianize the settlement and populate it with a nucleus of immigrant families from all parts of the country.

It was reported that Golan Heights settlement activists have already been in contact with the immigrant families, and some of them have even toured the area. Yehuda Wolman, head of the Golan Heights Regional Council, confirmed the intention to civilianize Qela'-Golan in the near future and said it would be populated by new immigrants, at least in the initial stages. It is to be a transit point for these families, whose ultimate goal is to set up the Brukhim community center, which is also located in the northern Golan Heights.

Wolman added that a plan was forming to establish two new settlements on the foothills of the Golan facing Lake Tiberias, but noted that not all the procedures had been finalized. It should be noted that 120 immigrant families have been absorbed in agricultural settlements on the Golan Heights and 160 families have settled in Qatzrin over the past six months. The Jewish population on the Golan Heights now totals 11,500, an increase of 1,500 people over the past three years.

Editorial Attacks Big Spending for Settlements

TA0409153991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Sep 91 p 9

[Editorial: "A Thorn Called Settlement"]

[Text] A large part of the dispute and bargaining in the cabinet over the 1992 state budget, especially over the defense and housing budgets, could have been avoided had the government decided that due to economic and social pressures in the coming year it was freezing the various budgets earmarked for settlements, in particular those targeted for development and construction.

In doing so the government would have shown it was acting with at least some seriousness and a great deal of responsibility. The alternatives to closing the taps on settlements are to deny some of the budgetary demands of the Defense Ministry; to degrade social welfare services; to erode the condition of the lower classes; to cut back in workplaces; and to increase the budgetary deficit, which might harm the economy's already shaky stability and spur inflation. An additional value of a decision to freeze spending on settlements might have been to put off the dispute with the U.S. Administration over settlements, which sticks like a thorn in Israeli-U.S. relations.

Discussions of the Israeli request for U.S. loan guarantees will be on the agenda in the coming days. The Israeli request, which is filed under the name of aid for Soviet immigrant absorption, faces reservations and concerns in the United States. The administration expected the Israeli Government to present a more encouraging picture of the Israeli economy. It is doubtful that the 1992 Israeli state budget answers that request. The speedy response by political sources in Jerusalem to the report that the U.S. Administration might link loan guarantees to an end to settlements—Jerusalem says such a condition was never presented—is indicative of thinking in the Prime Minister's Office. The office usually does not rush ahead in issuing reactions to issues of international importance, such as the Soviet coup or recognition of the independence of the Baltic states. The sources in the Prime Minister's Office, however, did not waste a minute in replying to the settlement issue. On that, the government does not base any economic, social, or political calculation. Enormous amounts of money continue to flow to the settlements, and not for immigrant absorption or real defense needs, but for political reasons.

The Israeli Government could have made an elegant gesture to the Americans and the Arabs, without any fear of being "stained" by "yielding" to the United States, had it announced of its own initiative that due to budgetary constraints it was freezing settlements for a period of time. In doing so it would have created a better atmosphere for advancing the political process, while

freeing large sums for goals of higher national importance. Such considerations, however, are not even taken into account in the Prime Minister's Office, which is prepared to go to war with the entire world over the settlements, and even to harm the chances of an economic recovery.

Influence of Hamas on Rise, PLO's on Wane

TA0209120891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] "Today we are seeing the Arab residents of the territories undergoing a process of sobering up, with opposition to the dialogue with Israel and Baker becoming marginal. Should the residents of the territories see that the peace process is not advancing, however, they will become more extreme." These remarks came yesterday from evaluative sources in Israel.

According to these sources, the most significant change in the Palestinian stand appears in the fact that, in a change from the past, they now accept the possibility of beginning a peace process without PLO representation.

"Pragmatic elements can also be detected in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Those elements are currently standing by, although their leaflets are harshly worded. If the train of the political process passes through here, they will try to get on board. That is why Hamas has been making an effort, trying to gain a quota of seats in the Palestinian National Council, which is scheduled to convene soon."

According to the sources, the leadership of the territories is constantly gaining power in comparison to foreign elements in Tunisia or other places. "Today, the PLO can do nothing without the approval of the local leadership in the territories."

They added that Hamas stands out in its activity in the Gaza Strip, mainly terrorist activity. "Hamas is the dominant force in the area today, mainly because the movement has managed to bring millions of dollars, mainly from the Gulf states, into the Gaza Strip. Proof of that can be seen in the fact that Hamas is willing to finance education and welfare institutes in the Strip."

The evaluative sources further reported that although Hamas and the Islamic bodies enjoy the support of some 30 percent of the Gaza Strip's population, they scored sweeping victories in recent elections in Gaza. For example, the Islamic Movement has obtained seven of the eight seats in the Chamber of Accountants and seven of the 10 seats on the Engineers Association directorate. "These sweeping victories have encouraged Hamas to demand 40 percent of the Palestinian National Council's seats," the sources maintained.

Speaking with military affairs correspondents in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the sources said that, unlike Hamas, the PLO today does not have the backing of the Arab world and suffers from a lack of funds.

It was further reported that over the past several months, there has been a decline in the number of strike days called for in the territories and in the extent of observing them. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia To Lift Ban, Grant Travel Visas

JN0409123391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decided to issue transit visas to Jordanians willing to return to their jobs in Arabian Gulf states and the Yemen. According to an official source in Amman, the Saudi Embassy conveyed the Saudi Government's decision today. Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur welcomed the Saudi Government's decision following a nine-month travel and transit ban on Jordanians. Al-Nusur thanked the Saudi Government's response to Jordan's request, calling it a positive measure and expressing hopes for a continued improvement of bilateral ties soured by the Gulf crisis.

Editorial Hails Lift of Visa Ban

JN0509082991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Sep 91 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Welcome Saudi Step"]

[Text] The Saudi measure allowing Jordanians to transit Saudi territory while on their way to the Gulf states and Yemen stands as a positive step, regardless of its size, particularly since the visa ban had been put in place during the Gulf crisis and is being lifted at a time when we are all willing to turn the page of the crisis and its repercussions in the interest of our people and our one Arab nation.

We welcome such a correct Saudi step and regard it as a move in the right direction because we are aware of the importance of keeping disputes and political differences among Arab states separate from the broad day-to-day relations among Arab people who have frequently been the victims of differences among leaders, capitals, or governments.

Furthermore, we are aware of the importance of restoring Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, as well as of the imperative of uniting Arab views, positions, and policies especially at this time when the main Arab causes are at the most critical turning point in their history. Although the welcome Saudi measure does not match our aspirations of reinfusing life into Arab solidarity, we view this small Saudi initiative as a good omen that the Arab brothers, all of them, will be able to get rid of the wounds incurred in the previous stage and of all the estrangement, misunderstanding, and hatred that characterized that stage.

While we appreciate the positive response to this Saudi measure from thousands of Jordanian citizens who are preparing to return by land to their workplace in the Gulf states and Yemen, we hope that such Saudi measures will continue in the near future until this regrettable condition of political estrangement among brothers is eliminated for good, as it has been harmful to our people and causes and produced weakness, disintegration, retreat, and humiliation for all of us.

Egyptian Visa Restrictions Postponed 1 Week

JN0509113491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul says that the Egyptian authorities informed our ambassador in Cairo that starting the night of Wednesday, 4 September 1991, Jordanian citizens who wished to visit Egypt needed to get a visa beforehand to enter Egypt.

The minister added that as a result of contacts the Jordanian Foreign Ministry held with the parties involved and with the Arab League secretary general, it had received information at noon today from our ambassador in Cairo that the enforcement of the decision had been postponed for one week. This gives Jordanian citizens a chance to travel during this period without having to get a visa. He said the Foreign Ministry will continue contacts to deal with the effects and repercussions of the decision.

Hizballah Blames Israel, U.S. for Blocking Swap

NC0409163591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim stated that Israel is obstructing the efforts to swap Western hostages with Arab prisoners. He added that the United States is backing Israel in its obstruction of the efforts to settle the problem concerning 10 hostages held in Lebanon.

Sale of Israeli Aviator to Iran Denied

NC0309121591 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Aug 91 p 7

[Text] AL-SAFIR received a statement from Mustafa al-Dirani [former chief of Amal security] in which he denied a statement attributed to Minister of State Nabih Birri that "Israeli aviator Ron Arad was sold to the Iranians." Al-Dirani said: This claim is untrue and irresponsible. I am not responsible for anything that happend after I was relieved of my responsibility and separated along with other leaders from the Amal Movement, he said. We have grown accustomed to these false and useless reports, he said in conclusion.

Minister Dib To Boycott Cabinet Meetings

NC3108140491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Roger Dib announced that he will remain absent from the cabinet meetings until the Amnesty Law is put into effect.

Karami: No Written Resignations Received

NC0409092091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said last night that the government has not yet received any resignations. He said: As far as we are concerned, there have been no resignations, because resignations are made in writing, not verbally or on the radio.

Prime Minister Karami added: Rest assured that the government will remain in power because it has a great deal to accomplish.

Army Expands Operations, Conducts Searches

NC0509080791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Over the past few hours, the Lebanese Army expanded its deployment area in Bsharri district and conducted storming operations to search for wanted persons. A force from the 7th Brigade deployed on the main street in Bsharri from Jubran Museum to Sayyidat al-Nur. The soldiers took position on rooftops and established several posts in (Maz'un), Hasrun, and Hadath al-Jubbah.

The Army also brought in a commando force supported by vehicles and artillery, which deployed in various locations. Army units began patrolling the new deployment areas.

According to people coming from the area, gunfire was heard in Bsharri, reportedly due to an Army patrol's exchange of fire with a number of wanted persons.

Weapon Searches To Stop Temporarily

NC0309070991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Press reports say that the Army and interior forces received instructions to stop their search operations aimed at uncovering militia weapons until judicial regulations are formulated to organize the searches.

Bra'shit Wants Protection From Israeli Attacks

NC0409172591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, this afternoon received a delegation from Bra'shit. The delegation handed him a memorandum to the government asking for action concerning the Israeli attacks. The delegation called for sending the Lebanese Army to the village to ensure its safety in collaboration with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Israelis Reportedly Divert Water From Villages

NC0409174391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Reports from Marj 'Uyun area indicate that the Israeli occupation forces are transferring the water drawn from a pump near al-Khiyam road juncture to the Mtullah settlement, which is approximately 5 km away from the pump, leading to a shortage of water in the villages using this pump, in which about 150,000 people live.

Meanwhile, the occupation forces have set up a new position on the hills overlooking 'Ayn Majdalayn, east of Kafr Huna. The occupation forces are patrolling by vehicle and foot both major and minor roads in that area.

Defense Minister Discusses 'Storming Operations'

NC0509063191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] In an interview published in AL-LIWA' today, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has emphasized that the storming operations are being carried out in an organized manner and will continue, because the state and the people cannot tolerate a situation similar that of the past. He said that arms must not remain in the citizens' possession.

He said that the cabinet made the decision to conduct the storming operations and stressed that the measures are being implemented in a completely legal manner.

Minister al-Murr said that storming operations are still taking place outside the Sidon camps and added that those conducting the operations have been instructed to avoid clashes with anyone, whether in the eastern or western sectors or in the camps.

Attacks Reported in South; Towns Abandoned

NC0509094091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] As a result of practices such as the sniper fire at Bra'shit's entrances, quarters, and roads, there has been a mass exodus from the villages of Bayt Yahun, Tibnin, (al-Jumayjimah), Safad al-Battikh, and Dayr Siryan in the central sector.

According to United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon statistics, only 35 of the 7,000 Dayr Siryan residents remain. Over 60 percent of the inhabitants of Tibnin and Shaqra have abandoned their towns, while Haddathah has been completely vacated.

According to people coming from Bra'shit, the border militia has installed loudspeakers in their positions overlooking the town and has been telling the inhabitants to gather in the town square, has ordered the observation of a curfew after 2000, and has threatened to fire on any violators.

It has been reported from al-Nabatiyah that the militiamen in the 'Alman position have been using heavy-caliber machine guns to rake the fringes of Zawtar al-Gharbiayh and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, on the banks of the al-Litani river. They conducted similar operations in the Hasbayya and western al-Biqa' sectors.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has criticized the state's utter neglect of the south and its people, considering this behavior tantamount to the crime of abandoning Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Government Protests to France Over 'Awn Behavior

NC0409075891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The Lebanese Government lodged a protest with the French Government over General 'Awn's violation of his amnesty conditions and his breach of silence after less than a week in Marseille. The Foreign Ministry contacted French Ambassador Daniel Husson to discuss this issue and protest the French Government's apparent disregard of Gen. 'Awn's behavior and that he was allowed to receive visitors and politicians, make press statements, and send inciting letters to the Lebanese people.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz also contacted the Lebanese Ambassador in Paris and asked him to discuss this issue with the French Foreign Ministry.

Khaddam Meets PLO's 'Arafat in Banghazi 30 Aug

JN3008050991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Banghazi—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met yesterday with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Banghazi. They reviewed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Khaddam returned to Damascus last night after taking part in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's celebrations of the inauguration of the first phase of the Great Manmade River.

He was seen off at Banghazi airport by Brigadier General Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council and secretary of the General Committee for Defense. During his visit, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with a number of delegation leaders attending the celebrations.

Israel's 'Peace for Peace' Concept Criticized

JN0409160691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's statements and announcements indicate that the Tel Aviv government views the peace issue and all the stages that international efforts have completed in this regard as a new reward the world offers to Israel's rulers for aggression and occupation, and as a comprehensive Arab surrender through which the Arabs will lay down their arms and acknowledge that all the land that Israel has taken from them is considered Israeli territory and that whatever rights and resources it wrenched away from them are its own.

This seems clear through a strange Israeli concept put forth by the wizards of politics in Israel which stipulates exchanging peace for peace, instead of exchanging land for peace. This means that Israel will do a favor for the Arabs and the world by stopping its encroachment on Arab land, even if this means only for a short period until it completes building its new settlements and absorbing new Jewish emigrants. In exchange, Israel demands that the Arabs lay down their arms and open their hearts for the Zionist invader in all life domains—political, economic, and cultural—in accordance with a premeditated Zionist plan that aims to occupy fresh Arab land through peaceful means rather than through weapons of destruction and killing.

The Zionist mind is harboring a wrong belief that permeates Israel's thinking and places Israel's rulers under the illusion that it is the only victor in the region for all time, that it is the only power in the region capable of fighting and of imposing conditions for all time, and that the Arabs can no longer affect the history of this region. This indicates, if anything, that Israel is not well versed in history, that it has no roots in history outside of its historical illusions and regardless of its efforts to impose itself on the ancient history of this region. History and facts show that the history of this region is Arab history regardless of the repeated waves of invasion, no matter how intractable the balances of forces were to the Arabs at a certain period of history which prevented them from building their pan-Arab unity and dragged them into fragmentation. History and facts show that this massive human conglomeration from which our nation is formed over a wide region and on two neighboring continents is impossible to cancel out; that its will cannot be controlled; and that no power on earth can force it to submit or surrender.

The world, from west to east, particularly its effective powers, now realizes this fact. It is exerting all its efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis based on the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. Israel alone rejects all the new and old facts and disobeys every legitimate principle in our world. With a number of miscalculations, Israel is heading toward an abyss that threatens the Middle East with grave dangers.

The entire world and especially the superpowers are called upon to pursue their efforts and pressure Israel to wake up from its illusions, rely on the tangible realities around it concerning its position on the peace process, and abandon the fabricated events on which it wants to build a concept for the future of the Middle East that would only lead to more conflict, wars, and destruction at a time when all peoples of the world are proceeding with determination and firmness to establish the pillars of peace and build the human civilization amid an atmosphere of love, cooperation, and security.

Afghanistan

Minister: Soviet Coup 'Good' for Afghan Peace

BK0409053891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0344 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Accra, Sept 4 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil on Tuesday called for a swift solution to the Afghanistan conflict and said the failure of the Soviet coup was helpful to the cause of peace in his country.

Speaking to AFP before the start of a non-aligned ministerial meeting here, Wakil said if last month's coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had succeeded, mojahedin guerrillas would have used that as a "pretext to resume fighting."

"The failure of the coup in the Soviet Union can help the settlement of the (Afghan) conflict," he said, adding that the success of the coup would have "endangered the compromise settlement Gorbachev negotiated with the United States for a solution of the Afghan problem."

Wakil said there was "no place in Afghanistan for communism," adding that Islamic and national traditions were well-anchored in the country.

'Scores' Killed by 'Indiscriminate' Regime Bombs

BK0409153891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 4 (AFP)—Scores of people were killed or wounded in indiscriminate bombing by Kabul government planes Wednesday of Taloqar rebel-held capital of Afghanistan's northern Takhar Province, resistance sources said here.

The attacks by aircraft using napalm and cluster bombs continued most of the day, the sources said.

They said that exact details of casualties and damage could not be ascertained immediately. One of the wounded was said to be a Western humanitarian aid worker with a non-governmental organisation named Christianson.

Hundreds of people, mostly women and children, have been reported killed by aerial bombing in areas under control of rebel commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in northern Afghanistan since August 16.

Mas'ud in a statement issued on August 26 had threatened to block the Salang Highway, the lifeline linking Kabul to the Soviet Union in the north, if the "blind bombing" by government planes did not stop.

India

Minister on Soviet Military Spares, Defense

BK0409162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow has assured India of its continued support in the defense field and a protocol has been signed for the supply of certain essential spares and equipment. This was disclosed by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Krishna Kumar, in the Lok Sabha today. Intervening in the debate on the demands for grants of the Defense Ministry, he said he had detailed and fruitful discussions with the Soviet leaders during his recent visit to Moscow a couple of days before the unsuccessful coup there. Mr. Krishna Kumar said the signals from Moscow are in favor of continued Indo-Soviet defense agreement as an integral part of the bilateral ties.

Referring to the regional geopolitical environment, the minister said it is extremely serious in view of the reported nuclear capability of Pakistan and its acquisition of arms, including seized Iraqi tanks from Saudi Arabia. He assured the members that a very detailed and systematic assessment of the strategic environment has been prepared to work out the main defense stretegies of the country. He made it clear that there will be no compromise on the defense preparedness and modernization of armed forces despite budgetary constraints.

Refuting the criticism against the defense research establishment, Mr. Krishna Kumar said it is unfortunate that some disinformation is spread by some vested interests about the indigenous efforts for new defense technologies. He said the main battle tank Arjun has had good mobility tests in the Rajasthan desert during the summer and the Army is placing orders at the preproduction stage. The minister disclosed that the negotiations are underway for exporting 400 crore rupees worth of defense equipment.

Referring to some points made by members, Mr. Krishna Kumar said that the government is seeking to achieve consensus over the demand for rank one pension. The issue has to be considered in the context of the financial constraint as it involves an expenditure of over 1,200 crore rupees.

Participating in the debate, members called for a new defense strategy to face the challenges posed by Pakistan's nuclear capability and the changing international security environment. They criticized the government for not effectively tackling Pakistan's propaganda to internationalize the Kashmir issue. They said world opinion should be mobilized in support of India's stand on the issue and camps set up by Pakistan to train terrorists should be dismantled.

All the members were (?also stood) for one rank one pension to ex-servicemen and urged the government to implement the scheme without any delay.

There was also a strong plea to improve the lot of jawans [soldiers].

Parliament Members Urge New Defense Strategy

BK0409144691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Members in the Lok Sabha today called for a new defense strategy to face the challenges posed by Pakistan's nuclear capability and in view of the changing international security environment. Participating in the debate on demands for grants of defense, they said world opinion should be mobilized about our stand on Kashmir and said the training camps set up by Pakistan to train terrorists should be dismantled.

Punjab Elections Further Postponed to 25 Sep

BK0509034091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The union cabinet met in New Delhi yesterday evening and discussed the issue of holding elections in Punjab. Our correspondent understands that the cabinet considered further postponement of elections to the assembly and Lok Sabha seats in Punjab, now scheduled for the 25th of this month. It may be recalled that the prime minister has held talks with the opposition leaders and the Punjab governor recently on the issue.

Militants Kidnap Former Minister in Kashmir

BK0509022491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The former Jammu and Kashmir tourism minister, Mrs. (Khemlata Wakhlu) and her husband have been kidnapped. They were taken away by militants from their residence in (Dalgir) area last evening. Mr. (Wakhlu) retired as principal of the regional engineering college in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir government has denied having in its custody any of the four militants whose release has been demanded by the kidnappers in exchange for the four security personnel in the Kashmir Valley. They were kidnapped a few days ago by the outlawed militants group (Hizbul-Mojahedin).

Tamil Nadu President Demands Ban on LTTE

BK0509040891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Congress-I president, Mr. K. Ramamurthy, has demanded a ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in India. He told newspersons in Madras that the Special Investigation Team has enough evidence to show the involvement of LTTE in the killing of Rajiv Gandhi. Mr. Ramamurthy said sympathy for the Sri Lankan Tamils does not mean that the militants engaged in terrorist operations on Indian soil should go unpunished.

Prime Minister Rao Leaves for Visit to Germany

BK0509090691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has left New Delhi for Bonn on a three-day visit to Germany. A large number of his cabinet colleagues, including senior officials, were present at the airport to see him off. This is Mr. Rao's first visit abroad after taking over as prime minister. He will hold talks with German leaders in Bonn on bilateral matters and international issues.

In a statement issued on the eve of the Indian prime minister's visit, the German Government has recalled the traditionally friendly relations between the two countries. The statement said India is the biggest partner of Germany in economic development.

Atomic Energy Department Slashes Production Goal

BK0409120991 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] The Department of Atomic Energy has scaled down its target of producing 10,000 mw of power from the atom by 2000 AD, Dr PK Iyengar, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), said on Monday [26 August], reports PTI.

Addressing a press conference at the international seminar on small and medium nuclear reactors here, Dr Iyengar said it was scaled down because "inputs were not available at the proper time."

He said the department now expected to produce 9000 mw by 2001 AD. Of this, 2000 mw is expected to come from two 1000 mw reactors that the Soviet Union is to set up in Tamil Nadu.

Seven thousand mw of the revised 9000 mw goal will come from indigenous reactors, he said. The original Rs [rupees] 30,000 crore estimate for the 10,000 mw target has now been scaled down to Rs 16,000 crore.

Responding to questions about the possibility of the Soviet offer not coming about because of recent developments there, Dr Iyengar said at present there is "no change," in the proposed programme.

He said Indian engineers are discussing design details with their Soviet counterparts and, if the project goes according to plan, he first 1000 mw will be set up in 1998-99.

Dr Iyengar also said Egypt and Syria and some other countries have expressed interest in India's offer of setting up 5 mw research reactors in other countries.

Research reactors are very good for training of manpower in different aspects of nuclear technology covering safety, reliability and operations.

The AEC chariman said the new industrial policy could have a healthy effect on the local auxiliary supporting industry, leading to the rapid indigenisation of the nuclear component industry.

Iran

Khamene'i: No Islamic, U.S. Reconciliation

LD0409130591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Remarks by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a group of children of martyrs, tutors, and students of the Teacher Training College in Tehran on 4 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We want committed and caring manpower. Even if the teachers are nonbelievers and do not believe in Islamic values; they should, at least, be willing to be useful to their country. They should wish the students to be educated in a correct and moral way. They should not plunge them into moral turpitude. That is the issue.

Alongside stealing brains, taking away talents, resorting to adverse world propaganda, magnifying small faults, and covering up great assets, one of the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of this revolution is to sow the seeds of, and promulgate faithlessness in an atmosphere of knowledge, enlightenment, awareness and wisdom. That is animosity toward the revolution. That is animosity toward Islam.

Today world arrogance is frightened of the pure faith of any nation. Today the world domination-seeking and hegemonist arrogance has realized that it is the faithful people, the brave people, and those who believe in a series of principles and values, who stand against it. It is them they are frightened of, and it is them they confront. Our nation should be vigilant.

During the past 12 years our revolution has achieved a great deal. It has bypassed many obstacles and has overcome many problems. But problems have not ended yet. The enemy has not given up his animosity toward Islam and the revolution. Arrogance has not come to accept Islam yet. It is a mistake for any one to think that America and the world hegemonist apparatus have reconciled with the revolution, with Islam, and the faith of our nation and that of Muslim nations. They make no reconciliations. That is because they know that Islam does not reconcile with them. That is because they know that devoted human beings, anywhere they may be, make no reconcilation with oppression, bullying, and corruption. World arrogance is the source and center of all those corruptions. Vigilance is required, particularly by students, university personnel, tutors, and university authorities.

You should choose your path to be the one which opposes hegemonists and world devourers. That is what brings us up to Islamic values.

We hope that Almighty provides you brothers and sisters, in any rank you may be, with success, and that he grants all of us the necessary development and enlightenment to recognize our obligations at any sensitive juncture and, God Willing, follow this path with strong determination.

God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

Japan To Provide Assistance for Development

LD0509072391 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 5, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Oceania, Alaeddin Borujerdi met with Japanese State Minister and Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto in Tokyo Wednesday afternoon. Sakamoto said Japan is ready to cooperate with Iran in carrying out long-term development projects and stressed that his country will fulfill its undertakings vis-a-vis the reconstruction and development projects in Iran.

Borujerdi who arrived here Tuesday said Japan's decision to play a serious role in Iran's post-war reconstruction efforts is indicative of Tokyo's determination to promote its relations with Iran. He added that Iran welcomes the Japanese move.

The Iranian official added "protecting security of the Persian Gulf is the prime task of the regional states and Iran with the largest coastline, will do its best to materialize this objective." Sakamoto praised Iran for its humanitarian efforts in helping secure the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. Borujerdi left Tehran last Thursday on a tour of South East Asian countries and has so far visited Seoul and Tokyo.

Antiregime Operations in Sanandaj Reported

NC0409201491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Excerpt] A Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent reports from the party committee in district one of Kordestan that peshmergas from the Zagros force of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK] and cadres of the party committee of Sanandaj District decided to carry out operations against the clerical regime in memory of their co-combatants, martyrs Khalil Badvi, Sabah Salavati, and Mohammad Shali.

At 2030 on 22 August, this group of democratic combatants infiltrated Sanandaj city using partisan methods and chose the base guarding the Sanandaj radio and television center as their target. The peshmergas then took up positions on (Adab) and Sharifabad streets and around Karvasi hill to strike at possible movements by the enemy's support forces. Following this, the peshmergas' assault advanced to within a few meters of the base and took up positions.

At 2115 a coordinated barrage of fire was opened on the base. The mercenaries were unable to react to the peshmergas' pitiless and intense attack. It should be noted that since the operation took place near the city park and on Thursday, a large number of people who were in the park for a walk witnessed the peshmergas' attack on the base. Immediately after being informed that the brave democratic peshmergas were carrying out the attack, the people started to shout slogans defending the DPIK and encouraging the peshmergas, boosting our co-combatants' morale.

The peshmergas continued shelling the base for 20 minutes and then left the scene without suffering any casualties. During the attack, heavy damages were inflicted on the enemy's base and a number of enemy fighters were killed and wounded. After the operation, several enemy ambulances arrived on the scene to remove the dead and wounded.

The heroic operation by our party's peshmergas coincided with the visit by Rafsanjani's first vice president, Habibi. The next day Habibi went to the scene of operations and saw the damage inflicted by the party peshmergas on the mercenaries' base.

Before and after the operations, the brave combatants of the DPIK's Zagros force distributed party publications and pamphlets and pictures of the great martyrs of the movement in the city. [passage omitted]

Radio Views Policy on Soviet Developments

LD0409213891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the past fortnight's developments and changes in the Soviet Union, the Supreme National Security Council, or SNSC, of the Islamic Republic of Iran met under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday. The meeting discussed impacts of rapid developments in the Soviet Union and creation of new means for the politico-social life of the peoples of those republics.

The SNSC, fully respecting the views and aspirations of the peoples of the Soviet republics, and also honoring every agreement reached between the central government and those republics, announced its readiness for every sort of cooperation and help in all political, economic and cultural fields with them on the basis of reciprocal respect and good-neighborliness.

The council also hoped that the trend of freedom would continue and regional nations by successfully going through this stormy period, would attain tranquility and constructiveness [words indistinct] reviving their desired culture.

Since the onset of recent developments in the Soviet Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with due regard to its good-neighborly and independent ties with its northern neighbor, has refrained from any intervention in the affairs of that country. By declaring that current changes and events in the Soviet Union constitute an internal issue and that these will not have any effect on the two countries' firm relations, the government of Islamic Republic of Iran attaches significance to the political discernment of the Soviet people in choosing the best way for themselves.

The process of establishment of special ties with the Muslim-populated Soviet republics, which began a long time ago, is now expanding with a fairly good trend in the political, economic and cultural fields. Indisputably, Iran's cooperation with the Soviet central government too will continue to grow in line with the past commitments.

Undoubtedly, the people of Iran are watching the Soviet issues with interest and giving significance to the destiny of the Soviet people.

Meanwhile, cultural ties and religious links of the people of Iran with the Soviet republics of Central Asia and Transcaucasia enjoy their special status that the [words indistinct] positive effect for the expanding and cementing these relations.

With the approval of planned changes in the governmental system in creating a confederation of at least 10 of the republics in the Soviet Union, it is hoped that a constructive move will set it to overcome present problems.

Subject to successful implementation of the new alliance plan we can hope that ethnic issues will be resolved in that country through a democratic [word indistinct] and by recognizing the rights of the various nationalites. Of course, resolution of ethnic constraints in the Soviet Union will be instrumental in overcoming economic problems and in identifying unified methods to solve them.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Notes Good Relations With India

BK0509093291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, says his government is working toward finalization of the trade and transit treaty with India, and the task is expected to be completed soon in a manner satisfactory to both the sides. In a resume on the completion of 100 days in office, Mr. Koirala said Nepal's relations with India and other neighbors are cordial, harmonious, and free from any problem. Mr. Koirala said his government is following an open foreign policy and has made human rights an integral part of its policy.

Prime Minister Assesses First 100 Days in Office

BK0409130691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 4 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala gave an upbeat assessment

Wednesday of his government's first 100 days in office, saying it had maintained law and order and strengthened democracy.

The government's top priorities are improving general administration, implementing rural development projects and getting MPs to approve a new budget, Koirala told foreign journalists at his official residence here.

Koirala came to power in may general elections, the first since a seven-week democracy movement in early 1990 brought Nepal's 30-year partyless system to an end.

Politicians and observers have praised his realistic approach to the host of problems plaguing this landlocked Himalayan kingdom of 19.8 million people, 92 percent of whom live in rural poverty.

Since taking office May 29, he has faced breakneck inflation of 25 to 35 percent and a 56-day civil servants' strike that brought state administration to a virtual standstill and ended only when the Nepal Communist Party withdrew crucial support.

Economists predict harder times ahead, saying untimely rainfall and inadequate fertilizer supplies could cut agricultural production by more than 10 percent this year.

Critics blame the government for the deaths of at least four people in recent incidents of police firing and accuse Koirala of failing to achieve consensus on significant issues.

While supporters praise Koirala as a sincere and pragmatic head of government determined to consolidate the gains of a 32-year democracy movement, they agree that he must step up the pace of reforms or face unrest.

Pakistan

Azad Kashmir President Criticizes Border Firing

BK0409113091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] The Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, has said that Indian forces' cowardly act like unprovocative [as heard] firing in the Punch sector cannot weaken the valiant struggle of the Kashmiri freedom fighters which has entered into a decisive phase. Talking to a delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Council of Human Rights in Islamabad today, he asked India to learn a lesson from the current happenings in which even a power like the Soviet Union could not stop the independence of Baltic states. The AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] president also appealed to the human rights organizations to come to the rescue of the Kashmiri people and compel India to stop its brutalities being committed in the held territory.

Bhutto Demands Finance Institutions Investigation

BK0409155291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, has demanded that a high-level committee be formed to investigate the operations of financial institutions. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, she said the committee should consist of a Supreme Court judge and elected representatives from the People's Democratic Alliance, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, and independents.

Plot To Kill Zardari Slated for Investigation

BK0309153691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] The Sindh Government formed an investigation committee headed by a high court judge which will probe the apprehensions expressed by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto about the alleged conspiracy to kill her husband Asif Ali Zardari. The Sindh Government also decided to conduct the hearings of cases against Asif Ali Zardari within the jail compound where he is currently being confined. He is being tried by special courts.

PRC Light Industry Delegation Arrives 30 Aug

BK3008142791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by Light Industry Minister Zeng Xianlin arrived in Karachi today on a five-day official visit to Pakistan. The delegation will also visit Islamabad and Lahore.

Minister Zeng Meets President

BK3108114391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] With the members of his delegation, Chinese Minister for Light Industry Zeng Xianlin called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The Chinese minister exchanged views with the president on cooperation between the two countries in the fields of technology and industry. He expressed satisfaction over the existing cordial and friendly relations between Pakistan and China, and he expressed the hope that these relations will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Expressing similar sentiments, the president informed the Chinese minister that the close and cordial relations with China are like a milestone in Pakistan's foreign policy.

The chief of the Air Force of Bangladesh, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury, also called on the president and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. The chief of the Bangladeshi air force delivered a message to the president from the acting president of Bangladesh. On behalf of his government, he thanked Pakistan for its economic and technical assistance to his country in various sectors.

Agreement on Cooperation Reached

BK3108162991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] China has agreed to extend all possible cooperation for the promotion of light industry in Pakistan. This was decided at a meeting held between the visiting six-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for light industries, Mr. Zeng Xianlin, and the federal minister for production, Mr. Islam Nabi, in Islamabad today. The meeting identified various fields where China can assist Pakistan in the development of light industry through joint ventures and technology transfer. It was noted that Pakistan and China could enter into joint ventures in private sector for the manufacture of electrical fans, air conditioners, electrical equipment, autobicyles, elevators, hand-operated deep well pumps and [word indistinct] food processing.

Attends Banquet 2 Sep

BK0209043091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Sept 91

[Text] Federal Minister for Production Islam Nabi stressed the importance of cooperation between Pakistan and PRC in the field of light industry in private sector. Speaking at the dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese minister for light industry, Mr. Zeng Xianlin, in Karachi, he said for Pakistan, the promotion of light industry is essential to achieve self sufficiency in engineering goods.

The Chinese light industry minister said during his current visit, he will explore the possibilities of increasing bilateral cooperation to establish light industry, for which there are bright propects in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Moves Continue in Premadasa Impeachment Situation

'Intense' Moves To Heal Split

BK0409123491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 4 Sep 91

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 4 (AFP)—Intense peace moves were under way Wednesday to salvage the deeply split Sri Lankan ruling party as the opposition announced plans to drum up public support for President Ranasinghe Premadasa's ouster.

The crisis-hit president sent two of his trusted lieutenants for reconciliatory talks with two chief protaganists leading a constitutional campaign to impeach him, political sources here said.

Lalith Athulathmudali, a former minister now leading the anti-Premadasa campaign, said he and his main supporter Gamini Dissanayake had nearly two hours of talks with the president's emissaries late Tuesday.

"Our meeting was very genial. We agreed to meet again," Athulathmudali said after meeting Premadasa loyalists Sirisena Cooray and Ranil Wickremesinghe, two senior ministers in the now divided government.

Political sources said offers and counter offers had been made during the closed-door meeting and both sides were consulting their followers Wednesday amid hectic lobbying.

A powerful section of the ruling United National Party (UNP) favour scrapping the French-style executive presidency and restoring the British modeled parliamentary democracy with the backing of the opposition.

They have also asked for the removal of Premadasa charging him with a wide range of misdemeanours ranging from treason, bribery and corruption to covering up murders.

Peace talks between the divided unp men came as the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) announced nation-wide meetings to press for Premadasa's overthrow through a concerted political campaign.

SLFP leader Sirima Bandaranaike said their move was initiated because they were blacked out by the state run television and radio monopolies. Private newspapers too were under tremendous pressure, she said. [passage omitted]

Secret Vote on Impeachment Opposed

BK0509091891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has turned down the demand for a secret ballot in parliament if it takes up the impeachment motion against the president. A cabinet spokesman, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, told newsmen in Colombo today that there is no provision of a secret ballot on motions in parliament. He asserted that the government is in majority and only a few members of the ruling United National Party had signed the notice for impeachment. He also said that there is no need of a referendum as the people have already expressed confidence in the president.

Premadasa Blames Mosad

BK0509111991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's deeply split ruling party Thursday threatened dissidents with expulsion as a top loyalist said the government was confident of defeating moves to oust President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Chief Cabinet Spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe said legislators who broke away from the United National Party (UNP) demanding Premadasa's overthrow could still return but they would have to face disciplinary action.

Wickremesinghe, who is also industries minister, told reporters here that the faction led by his former cabinet

colleague Lalith Athulathmudali had no grounds to impeach Premadasa and their moves would be defeated in parliament.

"We don't mind the motion being discussed in parliament. We have a majority to defeat it. But what we are saying is that the motion is illegal. There is no foundation for allegations," Wickremesinghe said.

A powerful group of UNP dissidents is campaigning for the ouster of Premadasa, the scrapping of the French-style executive presidency and the return of a British-model parliamentary democracy.

Premadasa charged in remarks published Thursday in the state-run DAILY NEWS that the Israeli Secret Service Mosad was plotting to "destroy" him and hinted that the organisation was funding the campaign for his overthrow.

"The Mosad espionage service is now angry with me. They will spend any amount to destroy me. I know that this campaign now going on is receiving enormous funds," Premadasa told party loyalists.

Wickremesinghe said he was not aware if local intelligence authorities had received any information about Israel's alleged involvement. Premadasa closed the Israeli interests section here in April last year to appease Arabs.

Colombo severed diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv in 1970, but re-established limited relations in 1984 to get Israel's military expertise in fighting Tamil separatist guerrillas.

UNP General Secretary Sirisena Cooray, a trusted lieutenant of Premadasa, in a statement warned dissidents that any charges against the president should be first discussed within the party before mudslinging in public.

"It should be stated that...resorting to agitation elsewhere is against the party constitution and contravenes its policies," Cooray said. "If that be the case, the party will have to take disciplinary action against them."

The blunt statement came a day after Athulathmudali and his key supporter Gamini Dissanayake, a former minister sidelined by Premadasa, met Cooray and Wickremesinghe to thrash out differences.

Wickremesinghe declined to discuss his meetings with dissidents but Athulathmudali said Wednesday that talks had been genial and they agreed to continue the dialogue.

However, political analysts here said the strongly-worded statement by Cooray coupled with a severe cabinet reprimand Thursday of Athulathmudali and another minister who resigned last week showed the peace moves had deadlocked.

The cabinet of ministers, in a two-page statement, lambasted Athulathmudali accusing him of seeking to "discredit the good name of the elected president without any merit."

The cabinet also described the impeachment resolution, signed by dozens of UNP dissidents and virtuallly the entire opposition, as a "clandestine move."

Premadasa responded to the unprecedented impeachment resolution by suspending parliament for a month tilll September 24 effectively buying time to win over rebel MPs.

The six-page resolution which is still not a public document accuses Premadasa of treason, bribery, corruption and covering up of murders.

The opposition wants a secret ballot on the impeachment motion arguing that any government MP seen publicly voting against Premadasa would be penalised.

Whether or not such a vote can be taken is still unclear, with the government saying there is no such provision in the law while the opposition argues that it is the prerogative of Speaker Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad.

UNP Rules Violators Face Disciplinary Action

BK0509120091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] The UNP [United National Party] General Secretary Sirisena Cooray yesterday issued a statement saying that the parliamentary system of government with an elected executive president has been repeatedly endorsed by the people, and if any UNPer [UNP member] is now opposed to it there was a laid down procedure to follow. Resorting to agitation elsewhere without following such procedure violated the UNP Constitution and contravened its policies. Any such misconduct will be a breach of party discipline rendering the violator liable to disciplinary action, the statement said.

It further pointed out that the president, currently elected by the people, was a nominee of the UNP and the leader of the party. Any charges of misconduct against him by party members must be first brought before the party. No such charges have yet been formally presented. The statement said that the ministers, Lalith Athulathmudali and G.M. Premachandra, who recently resigned their portfolios, or the parliamentary group members Lakshman Seneviratne, Chandra Gankanda, K. Vincent Perera, (Samaraweera Weeravanni), Premaratne Gunasekara, and Gamani Dissanayake did not bring any such charges.

'Heavy' Fighting Around Mullaitivu District

BK0309133291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 3 (AFP)—Heavy battles raged Tuesday in northeastern Sri Lanka leaving four soldiers dead and dozens wounded as government troops killed an unspecified number of Tamil guerrillas, military officials said.

Troops backed by air force helicopters pursued Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in jungle-clad Mullaitivu District after fierce clashes Monday killed four soldiers, officials in neighbouring Vavuniya District said.

A military spokesman here said he had no immediate reports about the current fighting but Tamil sources confirmed that heavy air raids continued Tuesday in Mullaitivu, parts of which are under an indefinite curfew since Sunday.

"The Tigers have also suffered heavy casualties and about 40 of our men are injured," an official said by telephone from Vavuniya, adding that a curfew was also imposed in parts of Jaffna further north and adjoining Kilinochchi District.

The latest clashes were the worst since the army routed LTTE guerrillas in the recent battle for control of the northern Elephant Pass army camp, which was under a 25-day LTTE siege before elite troops ended the blockade a month ago.

Mullaitivu is one of the main strongholds of the LTTE, which is battling security forces to set up a separate state called Eelam in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two-million Tamil minority concentrated in the region.

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed since the LTTE renewed its independent campaign in June 1990 after calling off 14 months of peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

'Nearly 250' People Dead

BK0509115091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Hundreds of heavily armed soldiers backed by air cover and curfews smashed through Tamil guerrilla defences in eastern Sri Lanka Thursday, leaving nearly 250 people dead in combat, the military said.

A major air and ground offensive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was underway in the jungle-clad Mullaitivu region, where 226 rebels and 13 soldiers have died since Monday, a military spokesman said.

Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters here that the main focus of the entire armed forces was now on LTTE positions in Mullaitivu, one of the main transit points for the militants in their weapons smuggling operations. "We started the offensive a week ago and we have reliable reports that 226 Tigers have been killed by us. We lost 13 soldiers dead and 42 wounded as of yesterday," Munasinghe said.

He said the security forces advanced towards LTTE positions in the first four days without any resistance from the guerrillas. They also did not face enemy mines or ambushes in the initial stage of the operation.

Helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft are being used round the clock to pound LTTE hideouts and provide cover to advancing ground troops.

Munasinghe said he could not give the exact location of the operations and the nature of fighting because the battles were still raging. "The air force is with us 24 hours a day. It is one of the biggest battles."

The coastal Mullaitivu District is now under an indefinite curfew and parts of neighbouring Vavuniya and Jaffna Districts have been placed under curfew to prevent guerrillas receiving reinforcements and supplies.

Travellers from the north have said they noticed intense air activity from the air base in Anuradhapura, southwest of Mullaitivu in the past week. Guerrillas had also been moving to the battle zone, they said.

"The nature of the operation is such we cannot give you any further details because it will only be helping the enemy and jeopardising the lives of our soldiers on the ground," Munasinghe said.

The military had carried out a similar operation to lift an LTTE siege on a key army camp elsewhere in the north at heavy cost to itself and the LTTE.

Government losses in that operation which ended last month were put at 186 dead while the military claimed killing more than 2,000 guerrillas. The LTTE's estimates are not known.

The guerrillas are fighting to establish a separate state for Sri Lanka's two-million Tamil minority concentrated in the island's northeast.

Over 10,000 people have died in bitter combat since June last year when 14 months of peace talks between the LTTE and Colombo collapsed.

Nearly 50 'Terrorists' Killed Since 1 Sep

BK0409111891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Text] In a combined operation following information received from the public, Special Task Force commandoes and the Army on Monday [2 September] seized an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] arms cache at Okanda near Pottuvil.

Official sources said that among the seized were a Browning machine gun and 8,000 rounds of ammunition. Madan, an LTTE terrorist, who last week killed a Muslim farmer and wounded his son by placing a bomb in a haystack, was himself killed on Monday when ambushed by the security forces at the 13th colony in Amparai. Nine LTTE terrorist suspects were arrested by the police at Wattawella in the Nuwara Eliya District. Official sources said two submachine guns, hand grenades, and stocks of ammunition were recovered in this raid. Nearly 50 LTTE terrorists have been killed in heavy fighting in Weli Oya and Mullaitivu since Sunday, military sources added. Four soldiers were also killed while 30 others were wounded during the battle.